

# Northumberland and Tyneside Bird Club

Registered Charity No. 517641

<http://www.ntbc.org.uk/>

**Bulletin 2014 No 1**

**MONTHLY SUMMARY – JANUARY**

**4th March 2014**



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Whitethroat which visited Colin  
Bradshaw's garden in Tynemouth  
during January.

A great garden tick.

Photograph by Colin Bradshaw



## CLASSIFIED LIST HIGHLIGHTS

Tundra Bean Goose	Three individuals seen at several sites during month.
Greenland White-fronted Goose	Three still at Woodhorn and two at Grindon Lough.
Green-winged Teal	Single males on Holy Island and at Druridge Pools.
Balearic Shearwater	Highly unusual winter record at Snab Pt and Druridge on 9th and 10th.
Bittern	Single at Big Waters with up to three at Gosforth Park.
Little Egret	Inland sightings at Doddington, Cramlington and Horncliffe.
Glossy Ibis	One initially seen at Cresswell Pond on 9th moved to Lynemouth Flash 19th-23rd.
Black-necked Grebe	Single at Colt Crag Reservoir on 19th.
Grey Phalarope	Two were seen on 3rd at Stag Rocks, Bamburgh with one throughout month.
Black Guillemot	Singles at Berwick Pier on 9th and throughout month at Farne Islands.
Little Auk	Three south at Snab Pt on 29th.
Sandwich Tern	First ever wintering individual for the county at Stag Rocks 19th-21st.
Sabine's Gull	A 1st-winter at Cresswell on 29th is the first county winter record since the 1920s.
Little Gull	Unusually high numbers present during month.
Yellow-legged Gull	First-winter in roost at Colt Crag Reservoir on 15th.
Bearded Tit	The wintering male was seen again at East Chevington on 23rd.
Siberian Chiffchaff	Single at St Mary's from 4th-11th.
Lesser Whitethroat	One all month in garden at Tynemouth may be one of the Central Asian races.
Waxwing	Low numbers with one or two at several sites.
Lapland Bunting	Single at Alnmouth on 21st.

## COMMITTEE NEWS

Mike Richardson's Birds in Northumbria 2012 will be distributed at the March 13th Indoor Meeting. It will help save club finances if members can pick up and take copies to distribute. You will also get your copy earlier.

## FIELD TRIPS

### Holy Island – 29th March 2014

Meet mainland end of causeway 09:30h. As this is a tidal island members will need to be on before 11:10h and off after 17:15h. Please email Steve Anderson [seaswan@btinternet.com](mailto:seaswan@btinternet.com)

## INDOOR MEETINGS

NTBC indoor meetings are held at Northern Rugby Club, McCracken Park, Great North Road, Newcastle, NE3 2DT starting at 7.00pm and generally finish between 9.00pm-9.30pm. The next meeting is on Thursday 13th March

## The Work of the Rare Birds Breeding Panel

The Rare Breeding Birds Panel collates information on the UK's rarest breeding birds, generally those with fewer than 2,000 breeding pairs. Mark Holling, is the full time secretary of the RBBP and he will describe the work of the Panel and present some recent findings from his work, with a particular focus on Northumberland and its rare breeding birds.

## CLASSIFIED LIST

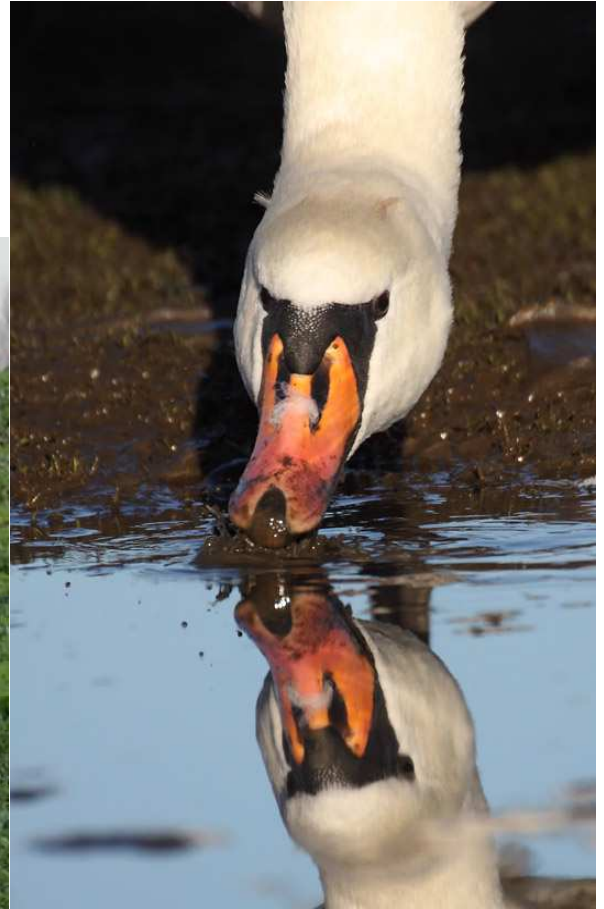
The following account consists of unchecked reports. The species/subspecies marked \* require descriptions.

A complete list of all sightings that need notes is included in the NTBC website [www.ntbc.org.uk](http://www.ntbc.org.uk) under the County Records Committee section and in Birds in Northumbria 2011 page 228.

The Inland and Coastal Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) tables are at the rear of the bulletin. These contain counts additional to those in the Classified List.

### Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

The flock at Killingworth Lake numbered 76 on 22nd (LJM). 17 were at Big Waters on 1st (GB), 14 were at the Tweed Estuary on 20th (MHu), ten at Gosforth Park NR (NHSN) and ten at Newcastle Leazes Park (DM). Five to eight were also at Arcot Pond and Hauxley Reserve, and one to four at eight further sites.



Left Whoopers at Warkworth Lane on 31st by Alan Jack and right a Mute Swan at Killingworth Lake by Chris Barlow

### Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

Peak counts were 52 at Cresswell Pond on 4th (JBU/DMcG/CS/PJA *et al.*), 47 at Warkworth Lane on 4th (DM *et al.*), 35 at Loanend (Horncliffe) on 5th (MHu), and 23 at Warkworth on 9th (TB) and Alnmouth on 26th (TF/JFa). Six to seven were at Doddington and Whittle Dene Reservoirs, and one to two at Capheaton Lake, Druridge Pools, East Chevington and Haughton Strother GP.

### Bean Goose *Anser fabalis*

Three, of the 'Tundra' *rossicus* race, were at Maiden's Hall Lake (West Chevington) on 24th (MSH), and three were with Whooper Swans at Alnmouth on 26th (TF/JFa). Three birds of the same race were at Old Hartley (JBU *et al.*) on 27th and with Whooper Swans at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on the same day (AJR)



Tundra Bean Geese  
Alnmouth  
By Jonathan Farooqi  
26th January

**Pink-footed Goose** *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Large concentrations involved at least 2,000 (possibly up to 3,000) at Doddington on 15th (MSH), 2,000 at Cresswell Pond on 25th (ASJ), 2,000 at Cresswell Links on 11th (TB), 1,000 at Fenham Flats on 19th (DM/STH), 500-800 at the *Beehive* Flash area (CGK), Budle Bay (CGK/GPK), Druridge Pools (PRM), High Hauxley (HRS), Holywell Dene (RJP), and Maiden's Hall Lake (West Chevington) (TRD/JD/MSH). Counts of 300-450 came from Beal, Cheswick, Elwick, Gloucester Lodge (Blyth) and Seaton Delaval, 100-150 at Bradford Kaims and Horton Grange, and 20-48 at East Chevington and QEII CP.

Northbound birds included 420 at Spittal Bay on 14th (MHu), 220 at Tweedmouth on 21st (MHu), 106 at East Ord on 20th (MHu), and 39-70 at Blyth, Seaton Sluice and St Mary's, while 500 S at Hauxley on 13th (HRS), 180 S at East Ord on 8th (MHu), and 53-59 S at East Chevington and Tynemouth, and 104 W at Tweedmouth on 16th (MHu), and 20-55 W at Capheaton and Shiremoor.

**White-fronted Goose** *Anser albifrons*

Two Eurasian *albifrons* race birds were at Cresswell on 21st (MSH/IF) and two adults, probably of this race, were seen distantly at Budle Bay on 16th (MSH).

Reports of Greenland *flavirostris* race birds involved three adults at Woodhorn Flashes between 1st-15th (TB/IJ/AT *et al.*), three adults (thought to be same as Woodhorn) at Maiden's Hall Lake (West Chevington) on 24th (MSH), and two adults at Grindon Lough on 15th and 27th (SJH/PRM/AJR).

**Greylag Goose** *Anser anser*

Mobile flocks involved 100 N at East Chevington on 4th (DM *et al.*), 44 E at Beal on 16th (MSH), 42 NW at Tweedmouth on 16th (MHu) and 16 E at Cramlington on 20th (STH).

Peak counts were 273 at Budle Bay on 16th (MSH), 267 at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 11th (SR), 220 at Derwent Reservoir on 2nd (IFo), 220 at East Chevington on 23rd (PRM), 159 at Horton Grange on 6th (PCF), 110-127 at Annitsford (IF) and Holywell Dene (RJP), and 95 at Monks' House Pool (MSH). Counts of 30-44 came from Colt Crag Reservoir, Grindon Lough and Maiden's Hall Lake (West Chevington), and one to 12 were at Arcot, Capheaton, Cocklawburn and Holywell Ponds, Warkworth and Woodhorn Flashes.

**Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis*

A flock of 40 flew E at Jesmond Dene on 5th (MJCo). The peak count at Grindon Lough was 280 (feeding 1km to E) on 19th (MRS), 130 were at Gosforth Park NR during the month (NHSN), 112 at Hauxley Reserve on 4th (PCF), 60 at Linton Ponds on 29th (PRM), 50 at Fontburn Reservoir (PG), and 16-25 at Big Waters, Druridge Pools, Newcastle Leazes Park and Whittle Dene Reservoirs. Singles were also at Cresswell and Holywell Ponds, Widdrington Moor Lake and Woodhorn Flashes.

**Barnacle Goose** *Branta leucopsis*

Numbers in the Harper's Heugh, Budle Bay area varied from 115 on 5th (JPD) to a peak of 285 on 27th (CGK/GPK), and 165 were near Ross on 30th (MSH).

**Brent Goose** *Branta bernicla*

A total of 538 at Budle Bay on 30th consisted mainly of pale-bellied *hrota* race birds, with a few dark-bellied *bernicla* race birds mixed in (MSH), and 50-240 were noted there between 16th-27th (MSH/CGK/GPK). Other *hrota* race birds involved peaks of 500 at Fenham Flats on 7th (TRD/JD) and 14th (feeding on fields; MSH), 40 at Beal Point (Lindisfarne NNR) on 2nd (TRD/JD), and one to two at Hauxley Reserve, Lynemouth Flash and Stag Rocks, while five flew N at Stag Rocks on 14th (BRS).

Other dark-bellied *bernicla* race birds involved about 110 at Holy Island all month (IK) and two at Cresswell Pond on 29th (PRM).

**Shelduck** *Tadorna tadorna*

A total of 15 flew N and one S at Seaton Sluice between 7th-29th (SSWT), and two flew S at St Mary's on 22nd (JPD). Peak counts were 1,000+ at Lindisfarne NNR on 4th (ASJ) and about 900 were noted in the Fenham Flats area on 7th (TRD/JD), 20 at the Blyth Estuary on 4th (DM *et al.*), ten at Howdon on 20th (CB), ten at Elswick on 22nd (MK), and eight at Castle Island (PG). One to three were also at Cresswell Pond, Druridge Pools, East Chevington and Hauxley Reserve. Inland, five had returned to Branton GP by 24th (TRD/JD), and two were at Colt Crag Reservoir on 19th (AJR) when one was at Grindon Lough (MRS).

**Mandarin** *Aix galericulata*

Five were at Haughton Strother GP on 18th (MR).

**Wigeon** *Anas penelope*

Six flew N and two S at Seaton Sluice between 3rd-26th (SSWT). Peak concentrations were 468 at Cresswell Pond on 29th (IRD), 430 at East Chevington on 23rd (PRM), 351 at Big Waters on 1st (GB), 331 at Derwent Reservoir on 4th (IFo), 200-250 at Colt Crag Reservoir, Druridge Pools and Hoppen Kiln flash, 130-194 at Gosforth Park NR, Grindon Lough, Hauxley Reserve and Whittle Dene Reservoirs, and 50-80 at Bothal and Linton Ponds, Foxton and Stag Rocks. Counts of 12-30 came from Arcot Pond, Capheaton and Maiden's Hall Lake (West Chevington). A dead drake was carried in the mouth of an Otter across the lake at Big Waters on 18th and was thought to have been killed by it (GB).



Gadwall resting  
Cresswell Pond  
by Alan Jack  
31st January



**Gadwall** *Anas strepera*

Largest counts were 56 at Big Waters on 1st (GB), 30 at Woodhorn Flashes on 15th (TRD/JD), 25 at East Chevington on 23rd (PRM), 19 at Pegswood Community Park on 27th (AT), 15 at the Blyth Estuary (a notable count for the site in mild weather) on 12th (LJM), ten at Gosforth Park NR (NHSN) and Holywell Pond (GB), and five to eight at Arcot Pond (DM), Castle Island (AT) and Marden Quarry (KWY). One to two were also at Bothal Pond, Branton GP, Hauxley Reserve, Howdon and the Wansbeck Estuary. A less typical locality was Chirton Dene (North Shields) where one was noted on 4th (MSH).

**Teal** *Anas crecca*

Eight flew N and 12 S at Seaton Sluice between 2nd-25th (SSWT). Large gatherings were 517 at Big Waters on 12th (GB), about 450 at Druridge Pools on 16th (PRM), 363 at Colt Crag Reservoir on 15th (PRM), 347 at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 11th (SR), 300-320 at Cresswell Pond (PRM) and Holy Island 'rocket fields'\* (MK), 220-280 at East Chevington and Grindon Lough, and 129-150 at Arcot Pond, the Blyth Estuary, Howdon and Low Newton. Counts of 57-68 came from Derwent Reservoir, Elswick, Hoppen Kiln Flash, Linton and Swallow Ponds, West Hartford, and 20-32 from Bothal and Middle Ord Ponds, Gosforth Park NR, Haughton Strother GP, Hauxley Reserve, Linnels Lake and Newburn.

\*display was noted regularly during the month (IK), and also at Swallow Pond on 20th (JPD).



Two 'cousins', left a Common Teal at Howdon Wetlands by Colin Bradshaw  
and right a Green-winged Teal at Druridge Pools on 19th January by Jonathan Farooqi

**Green-winged Teal** *Anas carolinensis*

A drake was at Holy Island 'rocket fields' on 12th (DS). It, or another, drake was found at Druridge Pools on 15th (TRD/JD) and remained until at least 30th (JPD/IRD/MSH *et al.*).



**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*

Largest counts were of 134 at the Tweed Estuary on 20th (MHu), 126 at Derwent Reservoir on 4th (IFo), 105 at Marden Quarry on 5th (KWY), and 50-92 at Big Waters, Budle Bay, Cresswell and Linton Ponds, Druridge Pools, Gosforth Park NR, Haughton Strother GP, Linnels Lake, Newcastle Leazes Park and Whittle Dene Reservoirs. Counts of 30-49 came from Bothal and West Allotment Ponds, Bywell Haughs, Chirton Dene (North Shields), Grindon Lough and Shield on the Wall, while ten to 28 were at Byker, Castle Island, Cocklawburn Pond, Hauxley Reserve, Lynemouth Flash, Newburn and Wark.

**Pintail** *Anas acuta*

Peak counts at Fenham Flats were 146 on 4th (ASJ), 107 on 14th (MSH), and 90 on 19th (DM/STH). Few were noted elsewhere, with four at East Chevington on 10th (BDK), and one to four at Druridge Pools between 10th-30th (JBu/IF/MSH *et al.*)

**Shoveler** *Anas clypeata*

Druridge Pools attracted 25 on 19th (TF/JFa), 24 were at Swallow Pond on 1st and 12th (JPD), 19 fed at night under artificial lights at Killingworth Lake on 4th (GB *et al.*), up to 15 were at Gosforth Park NR during the month (NHSN), three to four at Cresswell Pond (PRM) and East Chevington (TRD/JD), and two at Bothal and Warkworth Lane Ponds.

**Pochard** *Aythya ferina*

20 at Killingworth Lake on 22nd (LJM) and 15 at QEII CP Lake on 17th (IFo) were the only double-figure counts in the month. Other peaks were seven at Greenlee Lough on 19th (MRS), six at Swallow Pond on 1st (JPD) three to four at Grindon Lough (SJH/PRM), Ladyburn Lake (TRD/JD) and Tynemouth Boating Lake (MK), and one to two at Bothal, Holywell and Linton Ponds, Branton GP, Druridge Pools and East Chevington.

**Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula*

Killingworth Lake was again the most favoured site, attracting a peak of 127 on 22nd (LJM). Peak counts elsewhere were about 60 at East Chevington on 23rd (PRM), 34 at Grindon Lough on 26th (PRM), 29 at Greenlee Lough on 19th (MRS), and 29 at Marden Quarry on 26th (KWY). Counts of ten to 20 came from Big Waters, Bothal, Cresswell and Linton Ponds, Capheaton, Castle Island, Druridge Pools, Haughton Strother GP, Howdon, Newcastle Leazes Park and Whittle Dene Reservoirs. Two to seven were at seven further sites.

**Scaup** *Aythya marila*

Three (one drake) were at Castle Island on 24th (PG) and a single drake on 19th (DM/STH/PJA). Single pairs were at Hauxley Reserve on 26th (NFO), Holywell Pond on 3rd-4th (IJ) and 11th (GB), and Ladyburn Lake on 17th (IFo), and single birds were at East Chevington on 27th (TRD/JD), and Newton Pool on 31st (AJH). There were a number of inland records; a pair was at Grindon Lough on 27th and 30th (SJH), and singles were at Big Waters most of the month (occasionally missing) (GB *et al.*), Killingworth Lake (possibly same bird as Big Waters) on 27th (MSH), Sweethope Lough on 15th (PRM), and Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 27th (SR).

**Eider** *Somateria mollissima*

A total of 45 flew N and 32 S at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT). Peak counts were 74 at Cocklawburn on 7th (MHu), 44 at Meadow Haven, Berwick on 2nd (MHu), 27 at North Shields Fish Quay on 18th (MK), and eight to 15 at Berwick North Shore, Blyth Harbour, Seaton Sluice (offshore), Snab Point and the Tweed Estuary.

**Long-tailed Duck** *Clangula hyemalis*

Three flew N at Seaton Sluice on 6th (SSWT). At Stag Rocks, 80+ were counted on 14th (BRS), and two to 24 were noted throughout the month. Other peak counts were 12 in the Heugh area of Holy Island all month, with displaying pairs noted on 2nd (IK/DS), ten at Ross Back Sands on 8th (MR), three off Tynemouth on 3rd-4th (CB/MK), three at Spittal on 15th (MSH), three at the Tweed Estuary on 22nd (BWG), and one to two offshore at Cresswell, Druridge, Holy Island causeway, Newbiggin, St Mary's and the Tweed Estuary. Two to three were also at Cresswell Pond (JD/IJ/BDK *et al.*), Druridge Pools (PCF), East Chevington (PRF/PCF/IK *et al.*) and Ladyburn Lake (TB/TRD/JD *et al.*) on various dates.

**Common Scoter** *Melanitta nigra*

A total of 29 flew N and 22 S at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT), and a total of 21 flew S at St Mary's on 2nd and 18th (JBu). An estimated 1,200 were at Stag Rocks on 1st and 7th (TRD/JD), 1,000 on 14th (BRS) and 70-800 on various other dates between 4th-31st. Elsewhere, 220 were at Cheswick on 7th (MHu), 83 off Cresswell Pond on 16th (PRM), 55 off Druridge Pools on 23rd (PRM), and 20-38 off Cocklawburn, East Chevington and Snab Point. One to ten were also off Newbiggin, Ross Back Sands, Tynemouth and Warkworth. Unusually, singles visited Cresswell Pond on 11th (JD/BDK), Druridge Pools on 1st and 30th (IRD/PCF), and East Chevington north pool on five dates between 8th-20th (TRD/JD/NFO *et al.*).

**Velvet Scoter** *Melanitta fusca*

Two flew N at Seaton Sluice between 14th-17th (SSWT), and one moved S at Tynemouth on 4th (MK). Five (three drakes) were at Stag Rocks on 21st (TRD/JD) and one on 12th (BDK), and one was off Ross Back Sands on 12th (JD/TRD).

**Goldeneye** *Bucephala clangula*

The Tweed Estuary WeBS count on 20th revealed 145 (MHu), 35 were at East Chevington north pool on 17th (IFo), 33 at Capheaton Lake on 23rd (STE), 25 at Killingworth Lake on 27th (MSH), and ten to 15 at Branton GP, Castle Island, Grindon Lough, Lindisfarne, the 'River Wansbeck' and Whittle Dene Reservoirs. Five to nine were also at Big Waters, the Blyth Estuary, Bothal Pond, Budle Bay, Hauxley Reserve, Tyne Green (Hexham), two to three at Cresswell and Linton Ponds,

Fenham Flats, Hauxley Reserve, Ladyburn and QEII Lakes, and Sweethope Lough, and singles at nine further sites including Lynemouth Flash, and off Ross Back Sands and Stag Rocks.

#### **Red-breasted Merganser** *Mergus serrator*

Ten were at Berwick pier on 23rd (MHu), nine at the Tweed Estuary on 20th (MHu), seven at Budle Bay on 27th (CGK/GPK), six at Cresswell Pond on 16th and 30th (PRM/AJN), and three to four at the Blyth Estuary, Budle Bay, Druridge Pools, East Chevington, Hauxley Reserve, Ladyburn Lake, Stag Rocks. Singles were also at Castle Island and Seahouses.

#### **Goosander** *Mergus merganser*

One flew N at Seaton Sluice on 25th (SSWT). Peak counts were 21 at the Tweed Estuary on 20th (MHu), 16 at Linnels Lake on 18th (MD/AM), 15 at Killingworth Lake on 3rd (ASJ), 13 at Branton GP on 24th (TRD/JD), 12 (six pairs) at Wylam on 5th (STE), and eight at Tyne Green (Hexham) on 4th (AJR), and four to five at Bolam Lake, Greenlee Lough and Jesmond Dene. Two to three were also at Colt Crag Reservoirs, Jesmond Dene, Newcastle Exhibition and Leazes Parks, Mootlaw Quarry, Ponteland, QEII CP Lake, off Ross Back Sands, Swallow Pond, Thrum Mill\* (Rothbury) and Wark, and singles at nine further sites.

\* including an injured drake coming for scraps with domestic Mallards (TRD/JD).

#### **Red-legged Partridge** *Alectoris rufa*

On 7th 18 were at Wandylaw (IRD) and ten were at Hedgeley on 24th (RTD/JD). Two were at Hartley West Farm (Holywell Dene) on 12th.

#### **Red Grouse** *Lagopus lagopus*

The peak count was 20 in the Harthope Valley on 9th (TRD/JD) when eight were on Coanwood Common (SJH). One to three were noted at Bowden, Hollin Green (Keenley) and Quarry House Moor.

#### **Black Grouse** *Tetrao tetrix*

The peak count was 12 at Kirkhaugh (South Tynedale) on 31st (per SW). Six females were in the Knockburn area on 28th (SJH). Five birds were at Sinderhope lek on 24th (AA), a female was at Langleeford (Harthope Valley) on 9th (JD) and a male was at Keenley on 28th (SJH).

#### **Grey Partridge** *Perdix perdix*

The peak counts, both 18, were at Spittal Burn (Newbiggin) on 5th (AT) and Haughton Strother GP on 14th (MR). The latter were thought to be released birds. 17 were at Worrall Bank (Morpeth) on 14th (AT), 13 at Cambois on 2nd (GB) and Ellington on 4th (TB) and 12 at Scaffold Farm (Wallsend) on 1st (JPD). Nine were at Prestwick Carr on 22nd, eight in the *Beehive* Flash area (Earsdon) on 12th and seven at Holystone on 4th and Hemscotthill Links (Cresswell) on 10th. One to four were seen at Arcot Lane, Big Waters, Doddington, Druridge Pools, Hauxley, Snab Point and Widdrington Village.

#### **Pheasant** *Phasianus colchicus*

On 28th 11 males displayed at Hollin Green (Keenley) (SJH). Ten were at Widdrington Village on 4th (DM/STH/GB/LAR). Four females and two males were seen throughout the month in a Walbottle garden (KR/LR). One to two were noted at Hartley West Farm (Holywell Dene), Hauxley and Tynemouth.

#### **Red-throated Diver** *Gavia stellata*

The species was very well reported this month with 49 records being received. At Seaton Sluice during the month 162 flew S and 92 N with most being seen in the first three weeks. 38 flew past St Mary's Island in three hours on 22nd (JPD/MPF/AS) with 17 N there in three hours on 18th (JBu). 14 flew past Snab Point in 5 hours 30 minutes on 29th (PRM). 11 flew past St Mary's Island in 2 hours on 2nd (JBu), two flew N at Spittal beach on 4th and one flew N at St Mary's Island on 1st. There was a large concentration in the Druridge Bay-Cresswell area with a peak of 257+ counted on 16th (PRM). Up to 100 were noted on seven further dates (BDK *et al.*). At Stag Rocks the peak count was 60 on 5th (JPD/MPF/AS) with up to 29 recorded there on ten further dates (ASJ *et al.*). At Ross Back Sands 30 were present on 2nd (MJC) with up to ten on two further dates. On 5th 25 were present at Newbiggin (AT) with one to two on two further dates. Other large counts were 19 on the sea at Warkworth Gut on 4th (NFO), 13 at Seahouses on 8th (MSH) and 11 in the Cocklawburn-Spittal area on 14th (MHu). One to seven were noted at Berwick North Shore and Pier, Cambois, Cullercoats, East Chevington North Pool, Tynemouth, Warkworth and Widdrington Moor Lake.

#### **Black-throated Diver** *Gavia arctica*

One flew S at St Mary's Island on 18th (JBu). Two were at Snab Point on 9th/10th/23rd (AA/BDK/PRM) and Stag Rocks on 23rd/30th (TBr/JPD/MPF/AS). Singles were also present at Stag Rocks on 21st/27th (TRD/JD/CGK/GPK). Other singles were at Holy Island on 5th (SR/AH), Druridge Bay 16th (PRM) and Warkworth on 27th (JD).

#### **Great Northern Diver** *Gavia immer*

At Seaton Sluice two flew S on 2nd and one on 25th (SSWT). One flew N at Snab Point on 9th (BDK). Two were at Ross Back Sands on 8th (MR) and Stag Rocks on 11th (AA). Singles were at Stag Rocks on 1st/4th/21st (TRD/JD/ASJ/BRs), Snab Point on 9th/10th (BDK), East Chevington on 11th (JD), Blyth Estuary on 12th (LJM) and Blyth South Harbour on 20th (STH).

#### **Fulmar** *Fulmarus glacialis*

At Snab Point 209 flew S in 5 hours 30 minutes on 29th and a 'blue' phase bird flew S at Snab Point on 29th (PRM), when at Seaton Sluice the only significant movement was 66 S (SSWT). During the month birds returned to several breeding



locations with a peak of 21 pairs at Whitley Bay cliffs on 28th (MNC). 13 were at Bamburgh Castle crags on 27th (CGK/GPK), eight were at Old Hartley on 21st (LJM), six at Stag Rocks on 1st (TRD/JD), Tynemouth Priory on 18th (CGK) and Spittal Bay (Newbiggin) on 27th (PG). Elsewhere four were in the Tweed Estuary on 2nd and offshore two to three were at Cresswell and Snab Point and at Whitley Bay South Promenade.

**\*Balearic Shearwater** *Puffinus mauretanicus*

One was on the sea in the Snab Point-Druridge area on the unusual date of 9th/10th. This record has already been accepted by the CRC (ADMc/BDK).

**Gannet** *Morus bassanus*

At Seaton Sluice 21 N and 62 S were noted during the month with a peak of 29 S in 2 hours on 29th (SSWT). At Spittal beach (Berwick) 20 flew S on 4th (MHu). Seven flew S at Snab Point on 29th (PRM), five passed St Mary's Island on 22nd (JPD). Singles flew both N and S at Stag Rocks on 21st, two flew S at Newbiggin on 4th and singles flew N at Newbiggin on 2nd and S at St Mary's Island on 27th. 30 were at Meadow Haven (Berwick) on 2nd and 16 in Spittal Bay on 4th (MHu). Offshore one to eight were in Druridge Bay and at Emmanuel Head (Holy Island), Snab Point and Stag Rocks.

**Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

At Seaton Sluice the largest movement was ten S and six N on 30th (SSWT). Peak counts were 43 at Blyth Harbour on 5th (STH), 34 at Meadow Haven (Berwick) on 5th (MHu), 28 at Amble Harbour on 4th (IF), 26 at Sandstell Point (Berwick) on 9th and 19 at Berwick North Shore on 16th (MHu). Elsewhere 16 were at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 27th (SR), 15 at Derwent Reservoir on 21st (IFo) and 14 were in the Tweed Estuary on 20th (MHu) and roosting at Bywell on 27th (MH). Seven were at Big Waters on 4th and five were on the River Tyne from Redheugh Bridge-Newcastle Business Park on 7th. One to four were noted at Arcot Pond, Castle Island, Colt Crag Reservoir, Elswick Wharf, Holywell Dene, Kielder, Linton Ponds, Newburn, Wylam and flying N at Wark and S at West Hartford.

**Shag** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

At Seaton Sluice 16 flew S and eight N during the month (SSWT). 150+ were off Stag Rocks on 14th (BRS) and 40 + off Spittal on 15th (MHu). Also in the Berwick area 18 were at Meadow Haven on 5th and 14 at Sandstell Point on 9th (MHu). On 27th 11 were in Budle Bay (CGK/GPK). One to three were in Blyth South Harbour and offshore at Cresswell and Druridge Pools.

**Bittern** *Botaurus stellaris*

Three were present all month at Gosforth Park NR (NHSN). A single was at Big Waters on 16th-18th (ISD/AF/JH/KB).



A Bittern in the open at Gosforth NR  
by Chris Barlow

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*

Singles were noted in the Blyth Estuary on 1st (TF/JFa/DM/STH/PJA), on the Horton Burn (Cramlington) from 2nd until at least 23rd (LJM/STH), Doddington and Warkworth Gut on 2nd (TRD/JD/STE), Budle Bay on 12th (BDK), Horncliffe on 20th (TBr), New Water Haugh (Tweed Estuary) on 25th (BWG) and again in Budle Bay on 27th (CGK/GPK).

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*

The peak counts were 15 in the Tweed Estuary on 20th (MHu), nine at Hauxley on 11th (RB/MB) six at Boulmer on 11th (RB/MB) and five at Gosforth Park NR throughout the month (NHSN). One to four were noted at Allerwash, Beacon Point (Newbiggin), Berwick North Shore, Blyth Estuary, Castle Island, Coquet Estuary, Druridge Pools, East Chevington North Pool, Highford Bridge (Morpeth), Holywell Dene, Shillmoor Wansbeck Estuary Whittle Dene Reservoirs, Whorral Bank (Morpeth) and Woodhorn Flashes.



The popular Glossy Ibis at Lynemouth  
by Janet Dean on 20th January

**\*Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus*

One was found at Cresswell Pond on 9th (BDK). Presumably this was the bird that was present at Lynemouth Flash from 19th-23rd (many observers).

**Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

The peak counts were ten at Hauxley NR on 4th (HRS), six at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 2nd/15th (MR/PRM) and five at Cresswell Pond on 29th (PRM). One to two were noted at Big Waters, Blyth Estuary, Bothal Pond, Branton GP, Capheaton Lake, Castle Island, Derwent Reservoir, East Chevington, Gosforth Park NR, Killingworth Lake, Marden Quarry, QEII Lake, Swallow Pond and the Tweed Estuary.

**Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus*

One flew N at Seaton Sluice on 9th (SSWT). Two were offshore at Druridge Pools on 10th (EC). Singles were at Meadow Haven (Berwick) on 2nd (MHu), Killingworth Lake on 3rd (ASJ), Cresswell Pond on 8th (TRD/JD), Ross Back Sands on 8th (MR), Seaton Sluice on 11th, offshore at Cresswell on 16th (PRM) and QEII Lake on 23rd (PG).

**Red-necked Grebe** *Podiceps grisegena*

Singles were at Warkworth Gut on 4th (NFO), Stag Rocks on 8th (MR), 21st (TRD/JD) and 30th (JPD), Newbiggin on 10th (BDK), Brownsman (Farne Islands) on 14th (DS) and Ladyburn Lake on 21st (EC/JSB).

**Slavonian Grebe** *Podiceps auritus*

The peak counts at Stag Rocks were 12 on 14th and seven on 16th (BRS). Up to five were seen here on six further dates. The peak count at Holy Island was five on 4th/31st (IK) with up to three here on three further dates. Three were in Budle Bay on 27th (TRD/JD) and two at Ross Back Sands on 8th (SR/AH) and East Chevington on 30th (JPD/MPF/AS). A single was at Hauxley NR on 4th/5th (JPD/MPF/AS/ IJ/HRS) and at East Chevington North Pool from 10th-27th (Many observers). One was also offshore at Druridge Pools on 16th (PRM).

**Black-necked Grebe** *Podiceps nigricollis*

A single, probably a first-winter bird, was on Colt Crag Reservoir on 19th (AJR).

**Red Kite** *Milvus milvus*

Two birds flew NW near Shotleyfield on 21st (IFo) and singles were seen at Low Waskerley on 5th, Snods Edge on 21st (IFo) and at Heddon on the Wall on 29th (AA).

**Goshawk** *Accipiter gentilis*

Two different adult males were seen at Kielder Forest on 3rd and 4th (MD/AM) and another single bird was seen at a



confidential site on 4th hunting Wood pigeons *Palumbus Columbus* (ASJ).

**Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*

At Swallow Pond on 9th three birds were present (JPD). Two birds were present throughout the month at Gosforth Park NR (NHSN) and two were seen in an observer's garden at Tynemouth on 1st (ASJ). Singles birds were noted at 17 other sites this month.

A Sparrowhawk in a Dinnington garden  
by Peter Fletcher  
23rd January



**Common Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*

Ten were at Derwent Reservoir on 5th (IFo), and nine were near Bardon Mill on the A69 on 24th (MJC). Five were seen at Alnwick Moor on 11th (ASJ); four were noted at Bywell on 24th (MH) and at Melkridge on 27th (SJH). One to three birds were seen at 28 sites during the month.

**Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus*

Swallow Pond peaked with three birds on 1st (JPD *et al.*), two birds were seen at Gosforth Park NR during the month (NHSN/GB) and at Holy Island Lough on 17th (IK). Single birds were also at Backworth, Big Waters, Branton GPs, Cresswell Pond, Druridge Pools, Hauxley NR, Prestwick Carr, St Mary's Wetland and West Hartford.



Two striking views of a Water Rail at Swallow Pond by Jack Bucknall

**Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*

35 birds were present at Swallow Pond on 12th (JPD) and 30 were at Druridge Bay CP on 19th (TB). 16 birds were at Hadrian's Pond on 1st (JPD) and at Chirton Dene (North Shields) on 4th (MSH), 14 were at Big waters on 1st (GB). One to eight birds were at eight other sites during the month.

**Coot** *Fulica atra*

Killingworth Lake had the highest count with 107 birds present on 22nd (LJM), QEII CP had 55 birds on 29th (IRD), Big Waters had a count of 47 on 19th (GB) and 33 were at Marden Quarry on 26th (KWY). 12 Birds were at Gosforth Park NR during the month (NHSN), and 12 were also at Leazes Park (Newcastle) on 14th (DM). One to ten were at Arcot Pond, Bothal Pond, Castle Island, Druridge Pools, Hauxley NR, Holywell Pond, and Howdon and Linton Lane NWT.

**Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus*

The WeBS count at Berwick North Shore totalled 388 on 16th (MHu) and other coastal peaks included 205 at Cresswell Pond on 29th (PRM), 102 on The Links Mini Golf at Whitley Bay on 28th (MSH) and 84 at the Stag Rocks high-tide roost on 27th (CGK/GPK). Some 11-54 were noted at the Blyth Estuary, Cocklawburn, Cullercoats, Hauxley NWT and the Tweed

Estuary. Some early returning birds to inland sites included four at Bywell Haughs on 30th (PRM), three at Branton GP on 24th (TRD/JD) and singles at Haughton Strother GP on 14th (MR) and on Kielder Water dam on 27th (PRM).

**Golden Plover** *Pluvialis apricaria*

Large gatherings involved 1,500 at Elwick on 4th (ASJ) and 800 at St Mary's Island on 6th (TRD/JD), whilst 130 were at Swallow Pond on 12th (JPD). Smaller inland flocks included 60 at Plenmeller Common on 28th (SJH), 25 flying SW over Stanley Plantation (near Portgate) on 5th (ALT), 22 flying W over Alnwick Moor on 4th (ASJ) and 14 at Prestwick Carr on 3rd (PCF). Some 17-20 were noted in the Cresswell Pond area on two occasions, with ten to 12 at Newbiggin also on two occasions early in the month, eight at Cramlington on 12th, seven over Big Waters on 1st and one feeding on the Royal Grammar School playing field at 20.30hrs on 14th.

**Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*

Highest numbers typically came from the north where 65 were counted in Budle Bay on 27th (CGK) and 58 between Fenham-Elwick on 4th (ASJ). Reports from Newbiggin peaked at 20 on 10th (BDK) and one to four were seen at Amble Braid, Boulmer, Cocklawburn, Fenham-le-Moor, Hauxley NWT and Snab Point.

**Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus*

Passage at Seaton Sluice totalled 260 S between 25th-30th (SSWT). Large wintering flocks were in evidence with 1,200 at Derwent Reservoir on 2nd (IFo), 1,000 at Elwick on 4th (ASJ) and 1,000+ at Budle Bay on 16th (MSH). St Mary's held 400 on 28th (ASJ) and Cresswell Pond held a peak of 360 on 29th (PRM). Elsewhere, 150-200 were noted at Bellasis Bridge, Druridge Pools, Haughton Strother GP, Plenmeller Common and Woodhorn north flash. Smaller groups of 59-100 were at Big Waters, Capheaton, Fontburn Reservoir, Grasslees, Howdon, Lynemouth Flash, Prestwick Carr and Whittle Dene Reservoirs and smaller groups noted at a further five sites.

**Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*

Cocklawburn held peaks of 66 on 7th and 36 on 23rd (MHu), whilst Tynemouth attracted a high of 25 on 8th (CGK). Ten were counted on Hauxley beach on 2nd (STE) and one to five were at Budle Bay, Cresswell Pond, St Mary's Island and Stag Rocks.

**Curlew** *Numenius arquata*

The Links Mini Golf at Whitley Bay held 149 on 20th (ASJ) and 110 on 22nd (JPD). Good sized parties elsewhere included 142 at Hauxley NWT on 17th (IFo), 105 at Cresswell Pond on 16th (PRM), 55-80 at Druridge Pools, Howdon, a Monkseaton school playing field and St Mary's Island. Counts in the north of 20-42 came from Berwick North Shore, Cocklawburn, the Tweed Estuary and West Ord. Lynemouth Flash held 25 on 23rd and single-figure reports came from Bothal Pond and Woodhorn Flashes.



A Curlew flies past Chris Barlow at Warkworth

**Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa*

Wintering birds remained on the Blyth Estuary and peaked at eight on 17th (LJM) and small numbers remained at Druridge Pools to the 19th, peaking at five on 9th (AA). Holy Island Rocket Fields held a maximum of four on 19th (SR/AH) and



Hauxley NWT attracted three on 30th (HRS).

**Bar-tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica*

Budle Bay held the lion's share with 230 on 27th by far the highest count for the month (CHK). Some 14 were at Berwick North Shore on 16th (MHu) and one to six were noted at Beadnell, Cresswell Pond (one with a broken leg here on 29th), Hauxley beach, Hauxley NWT, Newbiggin, Sandstell Point (Spittal, Berwick) and the Tweed Estuary.

**Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*

A count of 94 at Whitley Bay Links on 28th (MSH) was far in excess of the highest others: 14 to 16 in the Berwick area on 16th and 26th, 15 at Stag Rocks on 7th and 12 at Lynemouth Flash on 23rd. Eight or fewer were reported from Beadnell, Cresswell, Fenham-le-Moor, Holy Island and St Mary's.



A colour-ringed Turnstone at St. Mary's by Jonathan Farooqi on 11th January

**Knot** *Calidris canutus*

The highest count was 300 at Fenham le Moor on 7th (TRD/JD) with the best of the rest 28 at Newbiggin on 10th. Eight or fewer were noted at Cresswell, Hauxley NR, Seaton Sluice and Stag Rocks.

**Sanderling** *Calidris alba*

During 11th to 28th 88-100 were seen at St Mary's (ASJ/CGK/AJN) and about 70 were present all month in Sandham Bay (Holy Island) (IK). Boulmer, Budle Bay, Cocklawburn, Druridge Pools, North Shields and Spittal all attracted 19-52 at times and small numbers appeared at another five locations.

**Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*

Cresswell Pond drew in an estimated 125-140 on 29th (IRD/PRM). Elsewhere around 80 were at Tynemouth on 18th (MK), 50 at Newbiggin on 2nd (GB) and 20-30 at Boulmer, Cocklawburn, Fenham-le-Moor and Snab Point; small numbers appeared at another six coastal places.



Dunlin sheltering from the wind  
at St. Mary's

by Alan Jack on 31st January

**Purple Sandpiper** *Calidris maritime*

Stag rocks held 50 for the first half of the month, then a later peak of 32 on 27th. Tynemouth had 12 on 25th and Seaton Sluice had a peak of ten on 15th; eight or fewer were noted at Berwick, Blyth harbour, Cocklawburn, Cullercoats, Holy Island, Newbiggin, St Mary's and Snab Point.

**\*Grey Phalarope** *Phalaropus fulicarius*

Two were feeding together in the surf off the beach at Stag Rocks on 3rd (EC/JSB) and a first-winter was there on 30th to 31st (BRS *et al.*).



A Grey Phalarope at Stag Rocks  
Photographed by David Boorman  
3rd January

**Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*

At Whittle Dene Reservoirs two were present on 15th (PRM) and singles were noted on four other days during 2nd to 27th (MR/SR). One was at Haughton Strother GP on 29th (MR).

**Redshank** *Tringa tetanus*

The peak at Cresswell Pond was 380 on 29th (PRM), 350 were in Tweed Estuary on 20th (MHu), the highest at St Mary's was 217 on 28th (ASJ), 180 were at Howdon on 26th (CB) and 138 at Cullercoats on 25th (MK). Around 50 were at Berwick, North Shore and Newbiggin mid-month with small numbers at a further four coastal sites and one at Bothal Pond on 19th.

**Jack Snipe** *Lymnocyptes minimus*

Singles were found at Prestwick Carr on 2nd (PCF), Backworth on 10th (CGK) and on Hexhamshire Common on 24th (MJC), the latter feeding in boggy ground at 380m above sea level.

**Woodcock** *Scolopax rusticola*

Three flew in off the sea at Seaton Sluice Watch Tower on 25th and one did so at Bamburgh on 27th (CGK/GPK), an influx that was reflected at Holy Island when five were noted on 30th (IK), including four flushed from dunes. Four were seen at Fontburn Reservoir on 17th (CW), at Arcot Hall GC on 23rd (STH) and at Beacon Hill (Longhorsley) on 31st (EC/JSB). Singles showed at eight other widespread locations on the mainland and one was killed by a peregrine at Inner Farne on 14th (DS).



**Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*

The peak count at Howdon was 29 on 13th (CB), 28 were at Haughton Strother GP on 14th (MR), 23 at Bothal Pond on 13th (TRD/JD) and up to 15 were present at Gosforth Park NR and adjacent pool (NHSN). Cresswell Pond had 13 on 13th, West Hartford and Backworth 11 each on 18th and 23rd respectively and small numbers visited six other localities.



Two Snipe at Cresswell Pond  
by Janet Dean  
15th January

**Auk** *Sp*

Monthly totals passing Seaton Sluice, the majority 'probably' Guillemots, were 60 N and 162 S including a peak of 78 S on 22nd (SSWT).

**Puffin** *Fratercula arctica*

The only record was of one flying N in a 5.5 hr. sea-watch at Snab Point (Cresswell) on 29th (PRM).

**Black Guillemot** *Cephus grylle*

A wintering bird was seen on several dates around Gun Rock, Staple Island (DS) and a winter-plumaged bird was at Berwick Pier on 9th (MHu).

**Razorbill** *Alca torda*

On 10th, 50 flew N at Snab Point on 10th (BDK) but only five were recorded passing N at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT). At least ten were offshore at Cresswell Pond on 16th (PRM) with six at Spittal on 15th (MSH) and at Bamburgh, Stag Rocks on 21st (TRD/JD). One to two were at five other localities throughout the month.

**Little Auk** *Alle alle*

Three single birds were recorded moving S during a 5.5 hr. sea watch at Cresswell, Snab Point on 29th (PRM).

**Guillemot** *Uria aalge*

Surprisingly well-reported this month, probably as a result of seeking calmer inshore waters due to persistent stormy conditions reducing the availability of food on the open ocean. At Snab Point, 500 moved N on 10th (BDK) and the monthly count at Seaton Sluice was 44 N and 236 S, including a peak of 101 on 22nd (SSWT); other significant numbers were ca.450 feeding close inshore at Berwick Meadow Haven following stormy conditions on 2nd (MHu), in excess of 400 in the Berwick area on 4th (TBr/BWG) and 100-150 at Berwick (Spittal), Cocklawburn and Cresswell Pond on other dates from 4th-16th (BWG/MSH/PRM). Further counts of 10-90 offshore came also from these and other localities including Bamburgh (Stag Rocks) and Druridge Bay with one to ten elsewhere at Blyth Harbour, East Chevington, Holy Island (Emmanuel Head) and Newbiggin.



**Sandwich Tern** *Sterna sandvicensis*

The first-ever county record in January, a single bird found at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 19th (Richard Dunn), was seen there again on 21st (TRD/JD).

**\*Sabine's Gull** *Xema sabini*

An extremely rare visitor in mid-winter, a 1st-winter bird was recorded at Snab Point on 29th during an extended sea-watch (PRM). This constitutes almost certainly the first January record for the county.

**Kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla*

A 5.5h sea-watch at Snab Point recorded 255 moving S on 29th (PRM) but at Seaton Sluice only small numbers were seen during the month, comprising ten N and 33 S (SSWT); light N passage was noted at Emmanuel Head (Holy Island) on 3rd (IK). During the first week, totals of at least 40 were at Ross (MJC) and at Stag Rocks in an offshore feeding flock, noted by the observers as 'very unusual to see these numbers in January' (TRD/JD). Elsewhere, 35 were found during a WeBS survey at Cocklawburn/Spittal on 14th (MHu) and ten were offshore at Meadow Haven (Berwick) on 2nd, Druridge Bay on 16th (PRM) and Cresswell on 23rd (PRM). One to three were at three other coastal localities.

**Black-headed Gull** *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

In the evening gull roost at Colt Crag Reservoir on 15th, ca.1200 were counted (PRM), the roost at Budle Bay held at least 640 on 27th (CGK/GPK), ca.220 were in a flooded field at West Ord on 26th (MHu) and 200 in Jesmond Dene (Paddy Freeman's Lake) on 3rd (MJCo). Elsewhere, flocks of 100-200 were at Leazes Park Lake (DM) and in the River Tweed Estuary (MHu) with 20-70 at Arcot Pond, Berwick (North Shore), Castle Island, Exhibition Park and including 24 in an observer's Walbottle garden (KR/LR).

A Black-headed Gull  
Blyth  
Alan Jack  
31st January

**Little Gull** *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

An unusually high number of records came in for this normally scarce winter visitor. The Seaton Sluice observers recorded a monthly total of 29, comprising 6 N and 23 S of which 22 S passed from 29th-31st (SSWT), this influx also being noted from Snab Point where 23 moved S on 29th (PRM); seven (four adults) also flew S at Newbiggin on 4th (AT). Eight (six adults) were at Low Newton on 31st (AJH), two adults on the River Tweed Estuary on 31st (MHu) and singles were elsewhere at Bamburgh, Cresswell Pond, Druridge Pools and Tynemouth on various dates throughout the month.

**Mediterranean Gull** *Larus melanocephalus*

The peak counts were ten in Newbiggin Bay on 20th (STH/IFo) with eight there on 4th (DM *et al.*), the majority being adults, and up to three present there throughout the month; a colour-ringed adult (yellow 2H62), seen at Newbiggin on 20th (and also 26th December 2013) had been ringed at Great Yarmouth, Norfolk on 30th November 2013 (STH). Elsewhere, one-two were recorded at Lynemouth Flash, Seaton Sluice, Shiremoor School Field, St Mary's Island, Swallow Pond and Woodhorn Flashes.

A Mediterranean Gull  
at St. Mary's by Jack Bucknall



**Common Gull** *Larus canus*

The large evening roost at Derwent Reservoir held ca.2,700 on 15th (PRM), a much reduced total from last month, and at Budle Point 1,300 were in the roost on 27th (CGK). Few other gatherings were recorded, comprising only 63 at Grindon Lough on 30th (SJH), 19 from a WeBS survey at Berwick North Shore on 16th (MHu) and ten at Arcot Pond on 1st (DM).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus graelsii*

Two adults and five 1st-winters were in the Colt Crag Reservoir roost on 15th (PRM), three were at Bothal Pond on 1st (TF/JFa) and singles were noted elsewhere, at Haughton Strother GP on 5th (MR) and the regular wintering adult in the Cramlington area seen on several dates (DM/LJM *et al.*).

**Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus argentatus*

The Colt Crag Reservoir roost held ca.630 on 15th (PRM) and other three-figure counts were 128 on the River Tweed Estuary on 20th (MHu), 110 in the Budle Point roost on 27th (CGK) and at least 100 at Fontburn Reservoir on 5th (PG). Smaller concentrations of 20-50 were recorded at Berwick North Shore, Hoppen Kiln Flash (near Lucker), Leazes Park Lake and Stanton Mill (DM/MSH/MHu/JR) with one to six at seven sites elsewhere.

**'Northern' Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus argentatus*

At least 11 birds of this Northern race were in the roost at Colt Crag Reservoir on 15th (PRM).

**\*Yellow-legged Gull** *Larus michahellis*

One, a 1st-winter, was recorded in the large gull roost at Colt Crag Reservoir on 15th (PRM).

**Iceland Gull** *Larus glaucoideus*

No records received this month.

**Glaucous Gull** *Larus hyperboreus*

No records received this month.

**Great Black-backed Gull** *Larus marinus*

At Big Waters, 13 flew S during the morning and early afternoon of 1st (GB) and double-figure counts comprised 80 at the Budle Point roost on 27th (CGK), 35 in Amble Harbour on 4th (IF), 27 at Budle Bay on 19th (DM) and 24 at Colt Crag Reservoir on 15th (PRM). Eight were at Haughton Strother GP on 1st (MR) and elsewhere, one to three were at nine other inland and coastal localities.

**Rock Dove** *Columba livia*

A gathering of 300 at Derwent Reservoir on 15th and 19th (IFo), 67 on the Environment Agency roof at Newcastle Business Park on 7th (DM) and present at Hulne Park (Alnwick) on 4th (IJ).

**Stock Dove** *Columba oenas*

A flock at 'shooters field' Big Waters attracted 80 on 1st growing to 110 on 19th (GB), likewise 45 at Howdon on 6th grew to 68 by 30th (CB). 15 were at Haughton Strother GP (Humshaugh) on 29th (MR), 12 at Marden Quarry (Whitley Bay) on 25th (KWY) with ten the peak at Gosforth Park NR during the month and one to seven at 12 other widely spread localities.

**Woodpigeon** *Columba palumbus*

Around 1,000 were at Brenkley on 25th (GB), 700+ spooked by a Buzzard at Bywell on 24th (MH), 560 in two flocks at East Ord on 12th (MHu), 500+ at Prestwick Carr on 31st, 250 at Grasslees on 11th, 200 at Hartley West Farm (Holywell Dene) and Furnace Bridge (R. Blyth) on 25th with 166 at Warkworth on 11th with one to 17 at five other locations.

**Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*

A roost at Slatyford (Newcastle) held 42 just before sunset on 22nd (MH), 27 were at Fenham-le-Moor on 4th (ASJ), 15 at Beaconhill (Cramlington) on 11th (STH) and one to two at Hulne Park, Jesmond Dene and Walbottle.

**Owl** (*sp*)

One, possibly a Tawny, flew across the road at Mitford Steads on 29th (PG).

**Barn Owl** *Tyto alba*

At least two were present on Holy Island during the month (DS) all other reports being singles at Haughton Strother on 3rd, Catcleugh Reservoir on 11th, Park End (N Tyne) and Druridge Pools NR on 16th, Sleafy Hall on 20th and Ellington at on 23rd.

**Little Owl** *Athene noctua*

Two were on territory in the Shiremoor / Backworth area during the month (CGK *et al.*) with singles at Big Waters on 1st & 12th (GB), Beacon Lane (Cramlington) on 7th till 24th (LJM *et al.*), B1318 Carrawbrough on 12th, Birtley on 15th, Buteland Fell on 21st, East Holywell (Whitley Bay) and Pegswood both on 30th.

**Tawny Owl** *Strix aluco*

Three calling birds were at Capheaton on 5th (STE), two at East Wood (Harbottle) on 5th (JMA) and singles at Wark (N Tyne) on 4th and 10th, Morpeth Castle on 8th, North Charlton Farm on 9th, Bamburgh and Kirkhill (Morpeth) on 14th and Spindleston on 27th.



**Short-eared Owl** *Asio flammeus*

A single was reported regularly in the Chare Ends area (Holy Island) during the month (IK/DS) with one at the ash lagoon embankment (Woodhorn) on 8th (TRD/JD), West Stobswood Pool on 9th (BDK) and Wark (N Tyne) on 23rd (PRM).

**Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*

The only multiple count was of two in Jesmond Dene on 21st (MJCo) with singles there and at Gosforth Park NR, Haughton Strother GP and Whittle Dene regularly during the month, at Horton Burn (Cramlington) from 1st and 4th, Wallsend Burn and Wark (N Tyne) on 1st and Lower Ouseburn on 16th.

**Green Woodpecker** *Picus viridis*

All reports were of singles calling at Craggside (Rothbury) on 8th (TRD/JD), Swallowship Wood on 8th and 22nd (AJH), Warkworth on 11th (BDK) and Bakethin Reservoir on 17th (MD)

**Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major*

A male and two females were together in the feeding station at Big Waters on 1st (GB), three were at Beacon Lane (Cramlington) on 7th (LJM), a pair present all month on feeders at Rothbury (TRD/JD) with two regularly at Capheaton and Holywell Dene (STE/RJP). Two were at Valley Park Cramlington and Holystone on 5th, Plessey Woods CP on 11th and Jesmond Dene on 12th with singles at many of the above and nine other locations.

**Kestrel** *Falco tinninculus*

Prestwick Carr had six birds on 5th (ASJ) and four on 10th (IK), three birds were at Belford on 11th (ASJ) and two birds were at Widdrington Moor Lake on 12th (JL) and at Maiden's Hall Lake on 24th (MSH). Single birds were seen at ten further sites.

**Merlin** *Falco columbarius*

Single un-sexed birds were seen at eight sites on or near the coast during the month. A male was seen inland over the observer's garden at Corbridge on 12th (MR) and females were Doddington on 2nd (TRD/JD) and at Amble Dunes on 12th (JL).

**Peregrine** *Falco peregrinus*

Budle Bay had two birds on 27th (CGK/GPK). Single birds were noted at 18 sites during the month.

**Magpie** *Pica pica*

A peak count of 77 at Swallow Pond on 17th with 67 there on 12th (JPD), 34 at Big Waters on 25th (GB), 29 at Freeman Hospital (Newcastle) on 24th (STE), 28 at Howdon on 11th (CB), 23 at Holywell Dene on 2nd (RJP) and one to 14 at five other sites.

**Jay** *Garrulus glandarius*

Six was the peak at Gosforth Park NR during the month (NHSN) with six also at Linnels Wood (Hexhamshire) on 19th (MD). Three were at Mitford on 4th (DM/STH/LAR/GB) with two at Aydon, Bothal, Beacon Lane (Cramlington), Humford Mill (Bedlington), Lambley Viaduct, Linton Ponds, Prestwick Carr and Swallow Pond. Singles were at eleven other widespread localities.

**Jackdaw** *Corvus monedula*

A count of 500 at QEII CP on 27th (ASJ), 210 over the observer's garden at Walbottle on 10th, 160 at Tyne Riverside CP on 8th (KR/LR), 140 at a roost at Colt Crag Reservoir on 15th (PRM), 105 at Cresswell on 18th (PCF) and 100 at Amble on 6th (JMA). One to 24 were at Alnwick, Howdon and Jesmond Dene.

A bird showing characteristics of the Nordic species *C.m.monedula* was at Royal Grammar School (Jesmond) on 27th (GB).

**Rook** *Corvus frugilegus*

The only large gathering reported was 1,000 at QEII CP on 27th (ASJ) with 16 around the shopping centre Chapel House (Newcastle) on 11th (MH) and singles at Hulne Park (Alnwick) and in a Walbottle garden.

**Carrion Crow** *Corvus corone*

A pre-roost flock of 118 at Town Moor (Newcastle) on 29th (GB), 150 in two flocks at Grindon Lough on 8th, 30 at Corby Crag on 19th (JMA) with one to six at Hulne Park (Alnwick), Elswick (Newcastle), Jesmond Dene and Walbottle.

**Raven** *Corvus corax*

A pair and a single were at a confidential site in North Northumberland on 4th (ASJ) and Wandylaw (Rosebrough Moor) on 24th (IRD) with three at Coanwood Common on 9th (SJH). Pairs were noted at Simonside Hills on 5th and Langleeford (Harthope Valley) on 9th with two at Usway Burn (Upper Coquetdale) on 12th and Plenmeller Common on 28th. Singles were at Colt Crag regularly and Dryburn Moor, Low Acton (Allendale), Capheaton and Holystone.

**Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus*

Ten were at Bakethin Reservoir on 17th, with six at Grindon Green (Wark Forest) on 1st (MD) and Wallsend Rising Sun CP on 4th (CGK), more than five were at Grindon Lough on 19th (PRM) and four the peak at Gosforth Park NR during the month (NHSN). One to two were at eleven other locations.

**Blue Tit** *Cyanistes caeruleus*

Two ringing sessions at Spindlestone during the month trapped a total of 28 (BRS) with 21 the highest count at Gosforth Park NR. 14 were at Humford Mill (Bedlington) on 15th with 12 at Bedlington on 1st (JR), seven the peak count in the observer's garden at Walbottle (KR/LR) and present at three other locations.



A Blue Tit shows its colours at Gosforth Park NR

Chris Barlow

**Great Tit** *Parus major*

A total of 22 were trapped in two ringing sessions at Spindlestone (BRS), 20+ in roving flocks up to 16 at Prestwick Carr on 1st (MH), seven at Humford Mill (Bedlington) on 15th (JR) and six at Jesmond Dene on 12th (MJCo). One to five were at Budle Bay, Bedlington, Pegswood and Walbottle.

**Coal Tit** *Periparus ater*

A count of ten at Grindon Green (Wark Forest) on 1st (MD), five at Humford Mill (Bedlington) on 15th (JR) with four in an Old Hartley Garden and trapped at Spindlestone during the month. One to three were at seven other widespread localities.

**Willow Tit** *Poecile montanus*

Up to three were seen regularly at Prestwick Carr during the month (PCF/MRS/STE) with two in Holywell Dene and visiting an Old Hartley garden (RJP), at the feeding station Big Waters on 1st (GB), Linden Hall (Longhorsley) and Plessey Woods CP on 11th (PRM). Singles were at Beacon Lane (Cramlington) on two dates, Castle Island (R. Wansbeck), Clennels Wood (Hexhamshire), visiting a Dinnington garden and at Linton Lane NWT.

**Marsh Tit** *Poecile palustris*

Four in Scotch Gill Woods (Morpeth) on 30th (MJC) one to two at Linden Hall (Longhorsley) during the month (IFo) with singles at Thrum Mill (Rothbury) on 10th, Rothbury on 13th (TRD/JD) and Whorral Bank (Morpeth) on 14th (AT).

**Bearded Tit** *Panurus biarmicus*

Presumably the bird last reported in November was seen in flight in front of the south hide at East Chevington North Pool at 16.25h on 23rd (PRM).

**Skylark** *Alauda arvensis*

An impressive 26 were found at Alnwick Moor on 4th (ASJ) other counts being poor with two at Spittal Burn (Newbiggin) on 16th (AT), one in a four-hour walk at Chatton Moor on 6th (MH), a single over Whitelea Paddocks (Cramlington) on 11th (DM) and one during the month at Elwick (TRD/JD).

**Long-tailed Tit** *Aegithalos caudatus*

A total of 17 were trapped and ringed at Spindlestone on 20th (BRS). Flocks of ten to 11 were noted at Gosforth, Haughton Strother GP (Humshaugh), Humford Mill (Bedlington), Lambley Viaduct, Stannington and Walbottle and six to eight at Beacon Lane (Cramlington), Druridge Pools, Holywell Dene, Prestwick Carr and Southfield Green (Cramlington). Two to four were reported from a further seven localities.



**Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita*

Singles were noted at Beadnell on 5th (JPD/MPF/AS), in gardens at Tynemouth on 14th (DRW) and 19th (KWY) and at Seghill on 20th (IF). Another was at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 20th (SR).

A bird showing characteristics of the **Siberian race** *P.c.tristis* was in the Gut at St Mary's Island from 2nd-22nd (JBu/DMcG/CS/PJA *et al.*).

The St. Mary's *tristis* Chiffchaff  
by Jonathan Farooqi on 11th January

**Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*

A female was in an Old Hartley garden from 12th-15th and a male here on 30th (RJP). Another female was in a garden at Christon Bank throughout the month (DS) and a male visited a Walbottle garden from 12th-26th (KR/LR). Further singles, again in gardens, were noted at Tynemouth on 16th (CB) and South Gosforth on 25th (MJCo).

**Lesser Whitethroat** *Sylvia curruca*

A bird showing characteristics of a **Central Asian race** was seen at feeders in a Tynemouth garden from 4th until the end of the month, and was still present well into February (CB). Feather samples have been taken for DNA analysis.



Two views of one of this winter's surprise finds,  
the Asian Lesser Whitethroat in a Tynemouth garden,  
left: by Jack Bucknall and right: by the garden owner Colin Bradshaw.

**Waxwing** *Bombycilla garrulous*

Two were at Bedlington on 1st and one on 17th (JR). Singles were at Corbridge on 15th (MR) and Cramlington on 21st (GM).

**Nuthatch** *Sitta europaea*

Up to five were noted at Mitford on 4th (DM) and three at Gosforth Park NR during the month. Elsewhere one to two were reported from Arcot Pond, Bywell, Capheaton, Hexham, Holywell Dene, Hulne Park (Alnwick), Humford Mill (Bedlington), Humshaugh, Jesmond Dene, Scotch Gill Woods (Morpeth), Spindleston and Walbottle.

**Treecreeper** *Certhia familiaris*

One to two were reported from Arcot Pond, Aydon (Corbridge), Beacon Hill (Longhorsley), Capheaton, Humford Mill (Bedlington), Mitford, Plessey Woods CP, Scotch Gill Woods (Morpeth), Stamfordham and Thrum Mill (Rothbury).

**Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes*

There were only two reports, from Hauxley and Jesmond Dene.

**Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*

A large roost at East Chevington was considered to contain anything from 4,000 on 4th to 10,000 on 11th and 6,000 on 23rd. Inland 2,000 flew NE over Haughton Strother GP (Humshaugh) on the evening of 6th. Elsewhere, 800 were at Plenmeller Common on 29th, 600 at Yellow Rigg on 11th and 450 at Grindon hill on 27th. Counts of 100-250 were also received from Newbrough, Newton (Corbridge), Ponteland Park, Prestwick Carr and Seaton Burn, while 50 were at Big Waters. One to six were noted at a further four localities.

**Dipper** *Cinclus cinclus*

Birds noted in full song from the beginning of the month included four at Shillmoor, three at Linnels Wood, two at Blakehopeburnhaugh and one at Ponteland Park. Three birds in Jesmond Dene included a pair at Waterfall, where they nested very successfully in 2012. One to two were also noted at Aydon (Corbridge), Branton, Breamish Valley, Doddington, Hedgeley, Hexham, Holywell Dene, Humford Mill (Bedlington), Lambley Viaduct, Plessey Woods CP, Settlingstones and Thrum Mill (Rothbury).

**Blackbird** *Turdus merula*

Perhaps the most remarkable record was a successful nest at Hexham, where a pair was feeding a recently fledged juvenile on 22nd-23rd (ALT). Large counts included 67 at Beaconhill-Northburn (5km-Cramlington) on 10th (LJM), 38 at Horton Burn (1.5km-Cramlington) on 4th, 30 at Swallow Pond on 17th and 22 at Prestwick Carr on 4th. Elsewhere 12-18 were reported from Bedlington, Gosforth, Haughton Strother GP (Humshaugh), Lambley Viaduct and Walbottle. Seven to ten were also at Holywell Dene, St Mary's Wetland and Tynemouth with one to five at a further four localities.

**Fieldfare** *Turdus pilaris*

The largest counts all came from the south west of the county with Grindon Hill topping the list on 27th, when 750 were noted (SJH). At nearby Grindon Lough there were 490 on 15th (PRM) and Plenmeller Common had 430 on 29th (SJH). Other sizeable gatherings included 200 at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 5th (ALT), 100-150 at Brizlee, Chatton Sandyfords, Coanwood Common, Fontburn Reservoir, Linshiels and Shillmoor and 90 near Humshaugh. Flocks of 30-50 were reported from Backworth, Bamburgh, Big Waters, Denwick, Doddington, Newbrough, Smalesmouth and Wooler and 20 from Alnwick Moor, Holy Island, Langleeford, Longhirst Station and Newton Red House. One to ten were reported from a further eight localities.

**Song Thrush** *Turdus philomelos*

Birds noted in full song included three at Hexham on 11th, two at Monkseaton on 14th and singles at Fawdon on 9th, Leazes Park on 20th, Newburn on 24th and Tweedmouth on 2nd. Ten at Swallow Pond on 1st included some singing birds (JPD). Up to three birds were noted in Jesmond Dene, two at Pegswood and Tynemouth and singles at Aydon (Corbridge), Big Waters and Budle Bay.



A Song Thrush at Dinnington  
by Peter Fletcher on 16th January



**Redwing** *Turdus iliacus*

The largest gatherings were 150 at Grindon Lough on 15th (PRM) and 90-100 at Brenkley on 10th (MP) and Airy Holm Reservoir on 19th (IFo). Flocks of 60-75 were reported from Big Waters, Bywell, Earsdon and West Wylam and 50-55 at Allerwash, near Humshaugh, Newburn and West Ord (Berwick). Smaller numbers, 20-25, were noted at Cramlington, Jesmond Dene and Wark Forest with one to 12 at a further seven localities.

**Mistle Thrush** *Turdus viscivorus*

Ten near Belford on 11th was the largest gathering (ASJ). Seven were noted at Backworth on 10th and at Gosforth Park NR and a group of six were at Jesmond Dene (Paddy Freeman's) on 21st. Counts of three came from Elwick, Lambley Viaduct and Newbiggin and one to two from a further 13 localities.

**Robin** *Erithacus rubecula*

Some good counts were made in the Cramlington area with 30 from Beaconhill-Northburn (5km) on 10th (LJM) and 18 at Horton Burn (1.5km) on 4th (LJM). Nine were at Whitley Bay Cemetery on 30th, six in Jesmond Dene on 12th and four at Bedlington on 1st and Humford Mill on 15th.



A Robin keeps an eye on Colin Bradshaw at Tynemouth

**Stonechat** *Saxicola rubicola*

On the coast, three were noted at Budle Bay, East Chevington and Warkworth Gut. Two were reported from Alnmouth dunes, Cocklawburn, Cresswell Pond, Druridge Links / Pools and Seahouses, while singles were noted at Holy Island, Lynemouth flash and St Mary's. Only two reports were received from inland localities, two on Alnwick Moor and a pair at Blawearie (Berwick Moor).

**Dunnock** *Prunella modularis*

Three were noted in an Old Hartley garden and two in a Walbottle garden (19th) with singles at Jesmond Dene, South Gosforth and Hauxley.

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*

55 were at Cullercoats throughout the month (ASJ), other high counts came from gardens with 50 in Corbridge on 29th (MR) and 40 in a Marden Estate garden in Tynemouth all month (ASJ). 40 were at Wark on 27th and 32 at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 7th. One to 16 were in Budle Bay, Spital Burn area at Newbiggin and a Walbottle garden.

**Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus*

Well reported with a peak count of 90+ in the *Beehive* Flash area at Earsdon on 5th (CGK/AJ). 55 were at Hauxley on 25th (ASJ). Flocks of 35-40 were noted at Bothal (7th), Elwick (14th), High Cocklaw, Berwick (13th) and High Newton (12th). 20-25 were at Bamburgh, Big Waters, Cresswell Pond and Whorral Bank (Morpeth). One to 15 were recorded at a further nine widespread localities.

**Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*

Three were on the Wallsend Burn on 1st and 8th (JPD). Two on the Horton Burn at Cramlington on 4th (LJM) and at Jesmond Dene on 21st (MJCo). Singles were reported from a further 12 locations with six records coming from locations around Newcastle City Centre during the month.

**Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla alba*

29 fed in a field at Lynemouth on 25th (ASJ) along with ten on old stables at the edge of Ashington Community Woodland on 16th (AT) were the only double figure flocks in January. One to two were at Big Waters, Newbiggin, Royal Grammar School at Jesmond, QEII Country Park, Ashington and Newcastle Civic Centre.

**Meadow Pipit** *Anthus pratensis*

In the mild conditions 11 were reported from Eglington Moor on 2nd (MH) and from Prestwick Carr on 11th (PCF). 10 were at Backworth on 10th (CGK) and counts of six scattered across Chatton Sandfords and five at Chatton Moor came on 8th (MH). One to three were noted in a further 11 widespread locations.

**Rock Pipit** *Anthus petrosus*

The favoured area of Sandham Bay on Holy Island held 12 on 3rd (IK). Elsewhere four were at Tynemouth on 30th (ASJ). Counts of three came from Fenham-le-Moor, Spittal, Berwick and St. Mary's. One to two were at Newbiggin, Blyth South Harbour, Seahouses, Snab Point and Stag Rocks.

**Brambling** *Fringilla montifringilla*

35 fed on beech-mast at Beacon Hill (Longhorsley) on 31st (EC/SJB). 23 were in stubble near Carterway Heads on 4th (IFo). Counts of 12 at Capheaton all month and at Grindon Lough on 19th were the only others to reach double figures. One to nine were at Anton Hill, Angerton Lake, Corbridge, Hexham, Holystone, Rothbury, Sleafy Hall and Wark.

**Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs*

No large flocks were noted during the month with 50 at Elwick on 31st the peak count (AJH). 40 were at Haughton Strother Gravel Pits on 14th (MR) and 25 at Widdrington Moor Lake on 4th (DMC/STH/GB/LAR). A garden count in Walbottle peaked at 15 on 26th. One to nine were at Dinnington, Holywell Dene and Pond, Humford Mill, Bedlington, Hauxley and Jesmond Dene.

**Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Well-reported (44 records) during the month; a peak count of 12 at St. James' Park, Alnwick on 28th (JMA). Seven were at Druridge Bay CP on 4th (DM/STH/GB/LAR). Groups of six noted at Humford Mill (1st), Derwent Reservoir (19th), and Branton Gravel Pits (24th). Five attended feeders in Rothbury with the same number at Darras Hall on 20th.

**Greenfinch** *Carduelis chloris*

Few reports this month with 24 in a garden at Walbottle on 26th both the peak count and the only flock to reach double figures (KR/LR). Nine were in a paddock at Beaconhill (Cramlington) on 12th (STH) and eight at Ellington on 25th (TB). Aside from seven at Seahouses on 3rd, all other counts were of one or two.

**Linnet** *Carduelis cannabina*

At least 300 were in stubble near Carterway Heads on 4th (IFo). A flock of 100 was at Elwick on 31st (AJH). 22-65 were noted from Big Waters (12th), Doddington (2nd), Holywell Grange Farm (10th) and Rising Sun CP (4th).

**Twite** *Carduelis flavirostris*

100+ were noted at Stag Rocks on 5th (JPD/MPF/AS). Most other reports came from the favoured area around Hemscott Hill in Druridge Bay with counts ranging from 30 to 86 from reports between 4th-20th. Away from there, 40 were at The Snook (Holy Island) on 12th and 19 at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 19th.

**Lesser Redpoll** *Carduelis cabaret*

Feeders at East Chevington attracted a minimum of 13 on 14th (JSB/EC). Ten at feeders in Rothbury on 10th was the largest count though smaller numbers were present throughout (TRD/JD). Eight were at Ellington on 4th, Holystone on 5th and Haughton Strother Gravel Pits on 18th. One to seven were at a further 12 locations.

**Common Crossbill** *Loxia curvirostris*

Two were in Wark Forest on 1st and three near Byrness on 11th with four at Blakehopeburnhaugh on 3rd and 12th (MD/AM) (TRD/JD).

**Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*

80 roosted at the Village Hotel, Cobalt Business Park, North Shields on 22nd (CGK). 55 were at Cresswell Pond on 29th (PRM) and 54 on feeders at East Ord (Berwick) on 23rd (MHu). 50 were in stubble near Carterway Heads on 4th (IFo). 20-41 were noted from Beaconhill, Cramlington, Corbridge, Druridge Pools and Wark.

**Siskin** *Carduelis spinus*

30 in flight at Longshaws Mill (Netherwitton) (JR) was the largest gathering noted in the month. Flocks of 20 were reported from Big Waters on 1st, Wark on 5th and Linton Lane NR on 11th. 16 were at West Hartford on 18th and 15 at Rising Sun CP on 20th. One to eight were at a further 15 widespread locations.



**Snow Bunting** *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Holy Island held a small flock between 5th and 15th with counts ranging from 20 on 12th to 40+ on 15th near the causeway (MSH). Three were at Blyth South Harbour on 6th and 11th. One flew S at Cresswell on 16th. Inland 11 were on the border ridge at Windy Gyle on 20th (IRD).

**Lapland Bunting** *Calcarius lapponicus*

One on the Aln Estuary at Alnmouth on 21st was the only report during January. (MJC)

**Yellowhammer** *Emberiza citrinella*

100+ were at Elwick in roadside hedges on 21st (TRD/JD). 50 were noted in the *Beehive* Flash area (Earsdon) on 12th (CGK) and at High Cocklaw (Berwick) on 13th (TBr). 20-40 were at Bamburgh, Ellington and Holywell Grange Farm. Ten to 16 in dunes at Alnmouth, Big Waters, Cresswell Pond, Cambois and Airy Holm Reservoir during the month.

**Reed Bunting** *Emberiza schoeniclus*

25+ in the *Beehive* Flash area on 12th was the largest gathering (CGK). 15 were at Cambois on 2nd (GB). Ten were in a mixed feeding flock at High Cocklaw (Berwick) on 13th (TBr). One to eight were at a further 12 locations.

**ESCAPES, HYBRIDS AND BIRDS OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN****Escapes****Lesser White-fronted Goose** *Anser erythropus*

The adult seen last month at East Chevington was found again at Druridge Pools on 1st (IRD) and later back at East Chevington with Greylag Geese on 28th (JSB). It is still thought to be an escape rather than of wild origin.



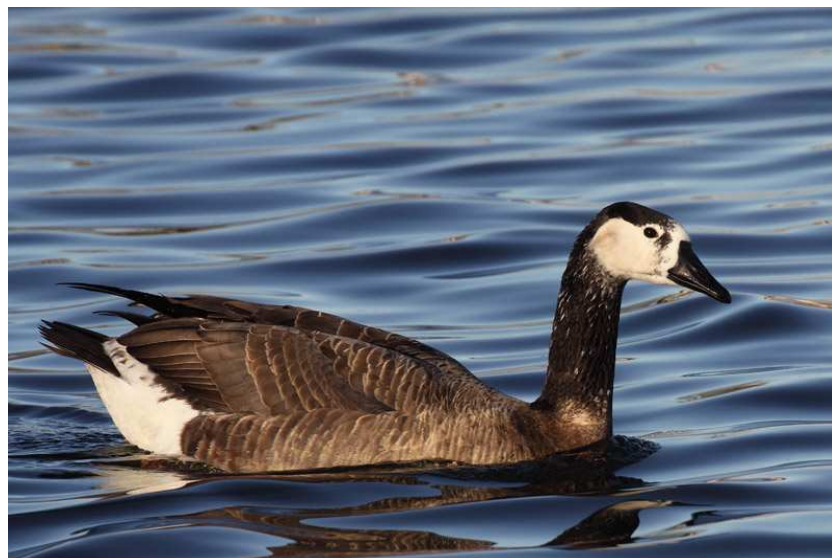
The 'dodgy' Lesser White-fronted goose with Greylags at East Chevington  
by Peter Fletcher on 20th January

**Alexandrine Parakeet** *Psittacula eupatria*

The long-staying individual at Hauxley was again seen on 4th (HRS).

**Hybrids****Canada Goose x Greylag Goose** *Branta canadensis* x *Anser anser*

Single hybrids noted at Hedgeley on 5th (TRD/JD) and at Killingworth Lake on 22nd (LJM).



The Canada Goose x Greylag Goose hybrid at Killingworth Lake by Chris Barlow

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Bamburgh Ringing Station, Berwick Wildlife Group, Hauxley Ringing Station, Natural History Society of Northumbria, Seaton Sluice Watch Tower.

## Apologies for any accidental omissions

## BULLETIN COMPILATION AND PRODUCTION

This bulletin was compiled by Graeme Bowman (Mute Swan to Ruddy Duck), Lindsay McDougall (Red Grouse to Black-necked Grebe), Trevor Blake (Honey-buzzard to Crane), Steve Holliday (Avocet to Godwit) Ian Forsyth (Turnstone to Skua), Eddie Crabtree (Puffin to Great Black-backed Gull), Tim Dean (Escapes, Hybrids and Unknown Origin, List of Contributors, Highlights), Peter Fletcher (Feral Pigeon to Red-rumped Swallow), Mike Richardson (Cetti's Warbler to Pied Flycatcher), Alan Tilmouth (Dunnock to Corn Bunting), Dan Turner (WeBS Coastal Counts) and Steve Holliday (WeBS Inland Counts).

Thanks to David Sanders of NNBC for providing data.

Proof reading was by Mike Smith.

Edited by Steve Barrett [NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com](mailto:NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com)

Mail distribution by Paul Stewart.

## RECORD SUBMISSION

Please e-mail Dick Myatt at [dick@dickmyatt.co.uk](mailto:dick@dickmyatt.co.uk) for a copy of the standard spreadsheet and other details.

Location names and grid references: The use of standard location names and the inclusion of grid references greatly increases the value of records in subsequent analyses. A 1km square grid reference is the ideal e.g. NY8067 for Grindon Lough, but 2km square references (tetrads) are also acceptable e.g. NY86D in this case. A list of localities and their tetrad grid references (tetrad/Locality List) can be downloaded from the 'Resources & Downloads' section of the Club website at <http://www.ntbc.org.uk> – the use of these names, wherever possible, would be highly appreciated.

**Could club members ensure they to submit records direct to NTBC rather than just Birdtrack. There may be an assumption by some members this happens automatically. We do not want to miss records.**

## PHOTOGRAPHS AND ILLUSTRATIONS

Please keep submitting your articles, photographs, sketches and illustrations for the bulletin. Thanks again to those who have supplied the excellent photographs. Please send to Steve Barrett at [NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com](mailto:NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com)

It is preferable if you re-size your photos before sending and a suggested size is 640 x 480 pixels. Please ensure you include the following information with your submissions: name, species, date taken, locality.

Photographs will not be used elsewhere without the photographer's permission.

## MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Membership costs £30 per year. For membership enquiries please contact [ntbc@jobentley.plus.com](mailto:ntbc@jobentley.plus.com)

## NTBC WEB SITE

The Club website is an excellent resource for all interested in birds in the north-east. There are numerous interesting sections, including a photograph gallery, site information and trip reports together with extensive reference information for birding in our area. Please submit any new content for the website to the main club email address at [ntbcorg@gmail.com](mailto:ntbcorg@gmail.com)

## NTBC SIGHTINGS PAGE

The Sightings Page contains current sightings by members. Access is from the NTBC website.

Members need to submit a request to be added to the page, specifying the email address they wish to post from before they can submit sightings to [ntbcorg@gmail.com](mailto:ntbcorg@gmail.com)

## TAXONOMIC ORDER OF SPECIES

The BOURC has recommended changes to the taxonomic order around Quail, Stone Curlew and some waders, Hoopoe, Bee-eater, Roller, Kingfisher, some wheatears, Trumpeter Finch, several other finches and, most remarkable perhaps, they have moved the falcons away from raptors and put them after woodpeckers.

The Bulletin order has been changed to conform to this order.

## OUTSTANDING DESCRIPTIONS

Attached to the bulletin is a list of the outstanding records for 2013. Please submit descriptions for these species to Tim Dean [t.r.dean@btinternet.com](mailto:t.r.dean@btinternet.com)



## **NORTHUMBERLAND HEN HARRIER PROJECT 2014**

I would like to take this opportunity to reintroduce myself. I am employed by the RSPB as this year's Species Protection Officer for Northumberland, with particular emphasis on finding, monitoring and facilitating hen harrier breeding attempts. As such, I feel sure that you will join me in wishing the birds and the project every success. For your information, this project is a partnership between the RSPB and Forestry Commission and part of a much larger, HLF funded hen harrier project ("Skydancer").

Most of you will be aware that over the 2007 and 2008 breeding seasons an impressive 10 hen harrier juveniles were fledged at a location in North Tynedale. Unfortunately in 2009 the breeding attempt at this site failed at the onset of nest building. In 2010 there was never a male and female on the site at the same time, while 2011 was equally grim, indeed as it was across the whole of England with only four successful nests, all of which were on United Utilities land in the Forest of Bowland, Lancashire. And if we thought a nadir had been reached we were wrong, with only one successful breeding pair known in England in 2012, and then we hit rock-bottom, with NOT A SINGLE BREEDING SUCCESS CONFIRMED IN ENGLAND IN 2013.

We had such high hopes in 2013 when a nest attempt got underway not far from the Otterburn Ranges, where a fully mature male had paired with an immature (probable second calendar year) female. From the point of view of monitoring and protection the RSPB operation was an unmitigated success; the birds were never disturbed during a 24/7 monitoring scheme that RSPB staff and volunteers kept up for two months. The two eggs, however, did not hatch, a failure that we now know was for natural reasons, in that they were infertile.

In view of the fact that hen harriers are on the cusp of extinction in England and that the traditional Northumberland sites are so precious, I wish to engage your support and ask for your cooperation by means of a couple of reasonable requests:

- I ask that members of the bird club, both collectively and individually, refrain from visiting the key potential breeding sites during the earlier and most sensitive stages of the breeding cycle (which we call "Phase 1"). This is to minimise activity and disturbance, when the chances of the birds abandoning their efforts, and the site itself, are highest. As in previous years, I would appreciate it if this message could be promoted through your newsletter or website. During this time I, along with a few trusted co-workers, will be undertaking a careful, restrained program of hen harrier monitoring throughout Northumberland.
- We will instigate a program of 24/7 monitoring after the nest-building stage (the onset of "Phase 2"), when some members of your club may well be very gratefully relied upon to provide volunteer support, as in previous years. Non-volunteer visitors will of course be welcomed at the appropriate time, once a breeding pair is well established. Even so, I would ask that visits are undertaken individually or in small groups only and that you are considerate of your activity. As I need always to be aware of what is happening on site, it would be particularly helpful if you could contact me in advance if you do plan to visit. Because there are many stakeholders in this project (and your club is not the least important of these), it may sometimes be necessary to rearrange the time or the day of your intended visit, but I will always do my utmost to accommodate you.

As I am sure you will agree, this project is extremely sensitive and extremely important in helping to assure a future for hen harriers in England. Therefore we must ensure that our interest in, and enthusiasm for these magnificent birds will have no unintended adverse consequences.

Anyone who is adept and at ease with the field identification of hen harriers (i.e. routinely able to distinguish male from female and immature from mature, for example), and who is up to covert monitoring for several hours at a time, please feel free to contact me with regard to volunteering for early-stage, Phase 1 monitoring. From February to April or May we of course need to monitor potential breeding sites, but we must not run the risk of disturbing the birds before they have a chance to pair-up and settle. With regard to members of the NTBC, any registered volunteers, or anyone interested in volunteering is welcome to attend a volunteers' social evening I have arranged for 19.00h on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2014 at the Rat Inn, Anick, near Hexham (ca.0.5 miles off the A69 Hexham roundabout). Representatives of the RSPB, the Forestry Commission and the Northumberland National Park Authority (the project partners) will be there, a couple of short informal presentations given and a very tasty buffet provided. Blanaid Denman from the RSPB Newcastle Office will talk about the HLF-funded RSPB Skydancer Project, while I will speak about the nitty-gritty of the Northumberland monitoring programme. More importantly, however, it is a grand opportunity to bring together the key stakeholders (volunteers included of course) to meet and talk in a local setting, for an update on progress in 2014 and for you to formally register your interest.

Please be assured that I will keep you informed of hen harrier activity across Northumberland via the RSPB "Skydancer" blog and other outlets, and I will be happy to work with you to arrange a visit once a breeding pair is established. Thank you in advance for your understanding and support in this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me.

Dr Stephen Temperley

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No.	Species	A/S/Nu	Place	Date 1	Date 2	Obs	Des	VR/Comments
4	Tundra Bean Goose	1	Woodhorn	18/02/13		AT		
4	Tundra Bean Goose	11	Holywell Pond	14/03/13		SPP		
4	Tundra Bean Goose	1	Budle Bay	21/03/13		DES		
4	Tundra Bean Goose	15	St Mary's Island	29/11/13		JPD / MPF / AS		
5	Taiga Bean Goose	3	Budle Bay	08/02/13		AA / MH		
5	Bean Goose	2	Broomlee Lough	15/12/13		MRS		
7	Lesser White-fronted Goose	Ad	Hauxley	09/10/13	29/10/13	IFo/ JAL /SRB/HRS et al		
8	Eastern Greylag Goose	4	Grindon Lough	29/10/13		SJH		
14	Egyptian Goose	1	Holywell	14/02/13		ASP		
15	Ruddy Shelduck	5	Druridge Pools	25/06/13		RH		
15	Ruddy Shelduck	2	Cresswell Pond	06/07/13		ADMc		
15	Ruddy Shelduck	1	Seaton Sluice	04/08/13		Per SSWT		
46	Surf Scoter	M	Stag Rocks, Bamburgh	14/05/13		?		
74	<b>Fea's /Zino's Petrel</b>	1	Newbiggin	22/07/13		ADMc		
81	Balearic Shearwater	1	Boulmer	19/06/13		?		
81	Balearic Shearwater	1	St Mary's	11/08/13		?		
81	Balearic Shearwater	1	St Mary's	12/08/13		ASJ		
81	Balearic Shearwater	1	Newbiggin	26/08/13		ADMc		
81	Balearic Shearwater	1	Seaton Sluice	27/08/13		BB et al		
81	Balearic Shearwater	1	Seaton Sluice	28/08/13		Mhp		
81	Balearic Shearwater	1	Bamburgh	01/09/13		IBDa / Kda		
81	Balearic Shearwater	1	Seahouses	05/09/13		AD		
81	Balearic Shearwater	1	Beadnell	05/09/13		GW		
81	Balearic Shearwater	2	Beadnell	06/09/13		GW		
81	Balearic Shearwater	1	St Marys	06/09/13		JPD / AC		
81	Balearic Shearwater	1	Beadnell	07/09/13		GW		
81	Balearic Shearwater	2	Newbiggin	11/10/13		ADMc / AA		
81	Balearic Shearwater	1	Druridge	11/10/13		IDR		
81	Balearic Shearwater	1	Annstead	11/10/13		?		
98	Night-Heron	Sub Ad	Haggerston	31/05/13		Gbo		
101	Cattle Egret	1	Fenham le Moor	02/08/13		?		Unconfirmed report
101	Cattle Egret	1	West Wideopens, Farne Islands	05/11/13		Farne Islands boatmen		Possible
104	Great White Egret	Ad	Prestwick Carr	27/04/13		TV et al		
104	Great White Egret	1	Holywell Pond	16/05/13		Bmo		
104	Great White Egret	1	Howick	23/05/13	25/05/13	AR		
107	Purple Heron	Ad	East Chevington	04/05/13	05/05/13	DTE et al		
109	White Stork	1	Beal / Haggerston	15/04/13	16/04/13	GG et al		Presumed escapee
110	Glossy Ibis	1	East Chevington	20/10/13		ME		
118	Honey-buzzard	1	Big Waters	23/08/13		AJJ / ISD / BRR	per GB	
118	Honey-buzzard	1	Holy Island	26/08/13		Ida / Kda		
118	Honey-buzzard	1	Fawdon Newcastle	28/09/13		MRS		Not a 100% sighting
119	Black Kite	1	Hauxley	27/05/13		ML		
119	Black Kite	1	Garleigh Hill, Rothbury	29/05/13		GI Ro		
119	Black Kite	1	Allendale	17/07/13		Age		
119	Black Kite	1	Wallsend	23/08/13		?		Possible



121 White-tailed Eagle	1	Howick	31/03/13	SS	Possible
131 Rough-legged Buzzard	1	Lucker	25/01/13	Jha	
131 Rough-legged Buzzard	1	Fenham Flats	08/10/13	DGB	
131 Rough-legged Buzzard	1	Morpeth	23/10/13	DTE	
141 Hobby	Ad	Newbiggin	09/05/13	AT	
141 Hobby	Ad	Gosforth Park	09/06/13	NHSN	
141 Hobby	Ad	East Chevington	06/07/13	GR	
141 Hobby	1	Big Waters	30/07/13	GB	
141 Hobby	Ad	East Chevington	02/08/13	JPD / MPF / AS	
141 Hobby	1	Hedgeley Bridge	23/08/13	Ida / Kda	
141 Hobby	1	Warenford	25/08/13	Jha	
141 Hobby	Ad	Whitley Bay cemetery	31/08/13	JPD / MPF / AS	
141 Hobby	Juv	Big Waters	20/09/13	AJJ	Freshly dead
146 Spotted Crane	Ad	Druridge Pools	19/04/13	BK et al	
146 Spotted Crane	Juv	East Chevington	31/07/13	DE et al	
156 Crane	3	Fenwick, nr Stamfordham	17/04/13	per NHSN	
156 Crane	6	Backworth Pond	21/04/13	JPD / TG	
156 Crane	6	Berwick	21/04/13	CC	
156 Crane	6	Holy Island	22/04/13	?	Seen by NT volunteers
156 Crane	1	Lynemouth	28/04/13	?	
156 Crane	1	Wingates / Rayburn Lake	29/06/13	PH / NFO et al	
156 Crane	1	Newbiggin	25/09/13	AT / ADMc / TRC / MHP	
162 <b>Black-winged Stilt</b>	1	Red Row	18/07/13	?	Possible
201 Temminck's Stint	2	Druridge / Cresswell Pond	06/05/13	GB et al	
201 Temminck's Stint	Ad	Derwent Reservoir	03/07/13	CT / PRM et al	
201 Temminck's Stint	Ad	East Chevington	19/07/13	EC / JSB	
210 Pectoral Sandpiper	1	Newton flash	12/06/13	GW et al	
210 Pectoral Sandpiper	1	Rocket Field, Holy Island	12/08/13	? / SR / AH et al	
210 Pectoral Sandpiper	Ad	Newton flash	14/08/13	GW et al	
210 Pectoral Sandpiper	1	Grindon Lough	01/09/13	PRM / CS et al	
210 Pectoral Sandpiper	1	East Chevington	04/09/13	JPD/ MPF / AS et al	
210 Pectoral Sandpiper	1	Grindon Lough	14/09/13	CS et al	
210 Pectoral Sandpiper	1	Cresswell Pond	21/09/13	RF / ADMc / JPD et al	
214 Red-necked Phalarope	Ad	Pelagic 2 miles E off Lynemouth	21/06/13	MSK et al	
215 Grey Phalarope	1	Tynemouth	06/11/13	Jbu / DmcG	
215 Grey Phalarope	2	Stag Rocks, Bamburgh	25/12/13	DGB et al	Two on 26 <sup>th</sup>
215 Grey Phalarope	1	Snipe Pt, Holy Island	26/12/13	SR	
240 Long-tailed Skua	2	Seaton Sluice	01/09/13	Per SSWT	
240 Long-tailed Skua	Juv	Cresswell	07/09/13	JR	
240 Long-tailed Skua	Juv	Seaton Sluice	07/09/13	Mhp / BB	
240 Long-tailed Skua	2 Juv	Tynemouth	10/09/13	?	
240 Long-tailed Skua	Juv	Druridge	10/09/13	IDR	
240 Long-tailed Skua	Juv	St Mary's	14/09/13	?	
240 Long-tailed Skua	Juv	Budle Pt	02/10/13	IBDa / Kda	
240 Long-tailed Skua	2	Seaton Sluice	11/10/13	SSWt	
240 Long-tailed Skua	Juv	Tynemouth	12/10/13	SPP	

240 Long-tailed Skua	Juv	St Mary's	12/10/13	ASJ	
240 Long-tailed Skua	Juv	St Mary's	21/10/13	Jbu	
240 Long-tailed Skua	Juv	Briar Dene	02/11/13	SPP	
240 Long-tailed Skua	Juv	St Mary's	21/11/13	JPD / MPF / AS	
247 Black Guillemot	1 <sup>st</sup> W	Newbiggin	11/10/13	ADMc / TRC	
262 White-winged Black Tern	Juv	Bothal Pond	11/08/13	STH / AT et al	Same as East Chev ?
272 Sabine's Gull	1	Tynemouth	07/09/13	?	
272 Sabine's Gull	1	Pelagic off Amble	08/09/13	AC	
272 Sabine's Gull	Juv	St Mary's	14/09/13	JPD / Tda / BR	
272 Sabine's Gull	Juv	Emmanuel Head, Holy Island	11/10/13	PRM	
272 Sabine's Gull	1	Seaton Sluice	11/10/13	BB et al	
288 Yellow-legged Gull	Ad	Hartley	21/07/13	?	Possible North Probable
288 Yellow-legged Gull	Ad	Newburn	06/08/13	?	
324 Common / Pallid Swift	1	Druridge Pools	26/10/13	IDR	
337 Northern Gt Spotted Woodpeck	1	Bamburgh	06/10/13	ADM	
337 Northern Gt Spotted Woodpeck	8 Juv	Holy Island	13/10/13	MJC / ADM	peak on 13 <sup>th</sup>
343 Golden Oriole	/ 1 <sup>st</sup> S	Newton Pool	02/06/13	SS / GW et al	
371 Bearded Tit	M	East Chevington	05/11/13	? / ADMc	
394 Greenish Warbler	1	Tynemouth	14/09/13	?	Possible
397 Yellow-browed Warbler	1	Big Waters	08/10/13	AJJ	Inland
397 Yellow-browed Warbler	1	Settlingstones	17/10/13	?	Inland
404 Siberian Chiffchaff	1	Low Newton	15/10/13	GW	
404 Siberian Chiffchaff	1	Newbiggin	15/10/13	?	
404 Siberian Chiffchaff	1	Chare Ends, Holy Island	19/10/13	ADM	
404 Siberian Chiffchaff	2	Whitley Bay cemetery	20/10/13	AC	
404 Siberian Chiffchaff	1	Marden Quarry	22/10/13	JPD / MPF / AS	
404 Siberian Chiffchaff	1	Howick	23/10/13	PRM	
404 Siberian Chiffchaff	1	St Marys	24/10/13	JPD / MPF / AS / NPD / AC	
405 Scandinavian Chiffchaff	1	Briar Dene	05/10/13	KWY	peak on 14 <sup>th</sup>
405 Scandinavian Chiffchaff	26	Holy Island	14/10/13	MJC / ADM	
405 Scandinavian Chiffchaff	1	Doctor's garden, Holy Island	17/11/13	ADM	
406 Northern Willow Warbler	2	Straight Lonnen, Holy Island	19/05/13	ADM / MJC	
409 Barred Warbler	1 <sup>st</sup> W	Howick	25/08/13	SS	
409 Barred Warbler	1	St Coombs Farm, Holy Island	27/09/13	MH per IK	Ringed
410 Central Asian Lesser Whiteth	1	Low Newton	04/10/13	GW	Possible
445 Northern' Treecreeper	1	Holy Island	16/10/13	AdM / MJC / SR	
483 Bluethroat	F	The Snook, Holy Island	17/05/13	? / ADM	
483 Bluethroat	F	Staple Island, Farne Islands	18/05/13	FIW	
486 Red-breasted Flycatcher	1	St Mary's	05/10/13	?	
510 Ashy-headed Wagtail	1	South Newsham Flash	28/04/13	Mhp / AC	
513 White Wagtail	1	Holy Island	27/08/13	DGB	
514 Richard's Pipit	1	Wark	08/09/13	PRM	
514 Richard's Pipit	2	Long Nanny Estuary	20/10/13	GW / AT / ADMC	two on 20 <sup>th</sup> only
517 Olive-backed Pipit	1	The Snook, Holy Island	19/10/13	MJC	Either OB or Tree
523 Water Pipit	1	Prestwick Carr	03/05/13	PRM / JPD	
540 Parrot Crossbill	2	Hauxley	19/10/13	MD	
542 Common Rosefinch	F / 1 <sup>st</sup>	SCOquet Island	20/05/13	CIW	



542 Common Rosefinch	1	Seaton Sluice	25/09/13	SSWt	
544 Northern' Bullfinch	1	Prior's Park, Tynemouth	18/02/13	?	
544 Northern' Bullfinch	F	Straight Lonnen, Holy Island	16/10/13	19/10/13	MJC / ADM / IK
565 Ortolan Bunting	Ad	Spittal, Newbiggin	21/05/13		AP / AT et al
570 Little Bunting	1	Tynemouth	16/10/13	?	
					Probable
					Probable

# Northumberland and Tyneside Bird Club

Registered Charity No. 517641

<http://www.ntbc.org.uk/>

**Bulletin 2014 No 2**

**MONTHLY SUMMARY – FEBRUARY**

**1st April 2014**



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## CLASSIFIED LIST HIGHLIGHTS

Tundra Bean Goose

Greenland White-fronted Goose

Green-winged Teal

Bittern

Glossy Ibis

Osprey

Marsh Harrier

Avocet

Grey Phalarope

Little Auk

Yellow-legged Gull

Glaucous Gull

Bearded Tit

Siberian Lesser Whitethroat

Three individuals stayed at Whittle Dene Reservoirs from 7th

Two at Grindon Lough

Male at Big Waters all month

Singles at Berwick and Cresswell Pond

Another sighting with one staying at Tynemouth from 19th to 24th

Another early return with one at Bakethin, Kielder on 25th

Early return with a young female back on 9th at East Chevington

Another early return with two back at Cresswell Pond from 23rd

Single remained at Stag Rocks, Bamburgh until 17th

Single off Stag Rocks, Bamburgh on 10th

A first-winter noted at Newburn on 26th

Single past Seaton Sluice on 27th

The wintering male was seen again at East Chevington on 15th

One all month again in garden at Tynemouth. Ssp *Blythi* on DNA analysis.



The much appreciated, and tame, Grey Phalarope at Stag Rocks  
Photographed by Jonathan Farooqi on 1st February

## COMMITTEE NEWS

### Birds in Northumbria 2012

Club members should now have received a copy of BIN. Many thanks to Mike Richardson and helpers who have again produced an excellent record of the county's birds for the year.

Andrew Brunt has joined the NTBC committee as secretary. A list of Club contacts is given later in this bulletin.



## FIELD TRIPS

We have two splendid trips lined up:

### Kielder – 27th April 2014

Birds in Conifers for new members with Martin Davison.

### Geltsdale – 25th May 2014 with Steve Westerberg.

Any members who are interested in any of the above field trips please email Steve Anderson [seaswan@btinternet.com](mailto:seaswan@btinternet.com)

## INDOOR MEETINGS

NTBC indoor meetings are held at Northern Rugby Club, McCracken Park, Great North Road, Newcastle, NE3 2DT starting at 7.00pm and generally finish between 9.00pm-9.30pm. The next meeting is on Thursday 10th April. Members' Night including Richard Barnes with a summary of ringing in our area and Jack Bucknall on his patch at St. Mary's.

## CLASSIFIED LIST

The following account consists of unchecked reports. The species/subspecies marked \* require descriptions.

A complete list of all sightings that need notes is included in the NTBC website [www.ntbc.org.uk](http://www.ntbc.org.uk) under the County Records Committee section and in Birds in Northumbria 2012 page 236.

The Inland and Coastal Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) tables are at the rear of the bulletin. These contain counts additional to those in the Classified List.

### Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

Peak concentrations were 88 at QEII CP Lake on 16th (CDH), 66 at Killingworth Lake on 21st (LJM), and 12-17 at Big Waters, Ellington, the Tweed Estuary and West Ord. Seven to nine were at the Blyth Estuary, Hauxley Reserve and Newcastle Leazes Park, and two to four at ten sites.



A pair of Mute Swans by Alan Jack

### Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

130 flew up the River Tweed at St Thomas' Island on 22nd (TBr), 32 were at Warkworth Lane up to 24th (EC/JSB/CGK *et al.*), 21-22 at Alnmouth on 10th (*per* NNBC) and 18th (IRD), 21 at QEII CP on 10th (TB), and 15-20 at East Chevington (CGK/CPK/ADMc), Grindon Lough (one juvenile out of 16 birds; PRM) and Horncliffe (*per* NNBC). Eight to ten were also noted at Bamburgh, Bradford Kaims and Fenham Mill, and two to four at Embleton, Greenlee and Sweethope Loughs, Longhirst, Shield on the Wall, West Ord and Whittle Dene Reservoirs. A freshly dead adult was found at East Chevington on 7th (IRD). In January, 50 were at Horncliffe on 15th (*per* NNBC).

### Bean Goose *Anser fabalis*

Three of the Tundra *rossicus* race were at Whittle Dene Reservoirs between 7th-28th (AA/PCF *et al.*).

### Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

280 flew N at Berwick on 20th (SVM), 200 N at St Mary's on 18th (GPK), 150 NW at Prestwick Carr on 18th (MRS), 130 N at Tynemouth on 10th (SPP), and 40-44 N at Cramlington and East Ord. Peak counts involved 4,000 at Doddington on 10th (JD), 2,500 at Cresswell Pond on 16th (TB), 1,500 at Druridge on 4th (MSH), 800 at Brier Dene Farm on 24th (MSH), 800 at Gloucester Lodge (Blyth) on 27th (MSH), 700 at Widdrington Moor Lake on 14th-16th (MSH/ASJ), 700 at Warkworth Lane on 17th (IF), 300-400 at the Beehive Flash (Earsdon), Bradford, Fenham Flats, Hauxley Reserve, Maiden's Hall Lake, Seaton Sluice, Tughall and 95-250 at Alnwick, Backworth, Elford, Goswick, Grindon Lough, Hauxley Reserve and Holywell Dene. In January, 2,000 were at Doddington on 13th (SVM), 750 at Cresswell on 21st (MSH/IF) and 500 S at Hauxley Reserve on 13th (HRS).

### White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

Eurasian *albifrons* race birds included two at Druridge Pools on 8th (CGK/GPK) and 9th (TD), and single adults in the Seghill area between 6th-8th (JPD/MPF/AS/IJ *et al.*), and at Holywell Pond on four dates between 11th -27th and 18th (JBu/IJ/SPP).

Greenland *flavirostris* race birds involved three at Druridge Pools on 5th (IRD) and two on 9th and 13th (ADMc), and two adults at Grindon Lough on 18th (PRM) and 19th (PRF).

Seven un-raced birds were at Maiden's Hall Lake (West Chevington) on 16th (RB/MB), three were at Woodhorn Flashes on 2nd (TF/JFa) and two at Cresswell Pond on 13th (IRD).

Two *albifrons* race birds were at Cresswell on 21st January (MSH/IF).

### Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

Largest congregations were 322 at Harper's Heugh (near Budle Bay) on 19th (MSH), 268 at Hauxley Reserve on 17th (HRS), 160 at Seghill on 6th (JPD/MPF/AS), 150 at Big Waters on 7th (IF), 100-105 at Grindon Lough (PRM), Prestwick Carr (GB) and Whittle Dene Reservoirs (PRM), and 70-87 at Budle Bay, Holywell Pond and Lilburn Grange. Counts of 17-34 came from Cocklawburn and Haughton Strother GP and two to nine were at five further sites. In January, 127 were at Annitsford on 15th (IF).

**Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis*

Numbers at Grindon Lough regularly ranged from 191-340 (PRM), with as few as three on some dates, and peaked at 561 on 16th (MRS). Peak counts elsewhere were 262 at Bothal Pond on 2nd (TF/JFa), 44-60 at Hauxley Reserve, Lilburn Grange and Widdrington Moor Lake, and 13-33 at Bywell Haughs, Castle Island, Catcleugh Reservoir, Linton Ponds, Newcastle Leazes Park and West Ord. Two to nine were at four further sites. A count of 98 came from Hauxley Reserve on 13th January (HRS).

**Barnacle Goose** *Branta leucopsis*

80 were at Harper's Heugh (near Budle Bay) on 1st (TF/JFa) and 128 on 19th (MSH). A count of 15 came from Haughton Strother GP on 14th (MR) and two to four were at Doddington (JD), Grindon Lough (PRM) and Hauxley Reserve (STH/IFo) on single dates. In January, 300 were at Budle Bay on 20th (DGB) and 23rd (JPL/*per* NNBC).



Barnacle Geese with Pinkfeet at Doddington on 10th October by Janet Dean

**Brent Goose** *Branta bernicla*

Pale-bellied *hrota* race birds included 200 at Fenham Flats on 6th (TRD/JD), ten at Harper's Heugh (near Budle Bay) on 19th (*per* NNBC) and eight at Newbiggin on 11th and 14th (TB).

Dark-bellied *bernicla* race birds involved one to two N at Berwick and Seaton Sluice on 1st and 26th (MHu/SSWT), 120 regularly during the month in fields, harbour and the St Cuthbert's Island *zostera* bed at Holy Island (IK) and two at Boulmer Haven on 19th (AB/LB).

Un-raced birds included 1,000 at Harper's Heugh on 20th (JPL), and 350 at Holy Island on 7th (*per* NNBC), and in January, 1,000 were at Fenham Flats on 23rd (JPL), and 115 at Fenham Flats on 19th (IBDa/KDa).

**Egyptian Goose** *Alopochen aegyptiacus*

An individual with an injured left wing and left foot was at the North Shields Fish Quay/Black Middens area on 26th-27th (JPD/CGK/PRM/SPP *et al.*).

An Egyptian Goose  
North Shields  
26th February  
Paul Buskin

**Shelduck** *Tadorna tadorna*

Nine flew N and five S at Seaton Sluice between 6th-25th (SSWT). Peaks were 1,300 at Fenham Flats on 20th (JPL), 171 at Budle Bay on 19th (MSH), 85 at the Blyth Estuary on 26th (LJM), 25 at Howdon Wetland on 1st (CB), 22 at Elswick on 20th (MK), and 11 at Cresswell Pond on 12th (IRD). Five to six were at Druridge Pools, East Chevington and Hauxley Reserve, two to three at Ashington, Bothal Pond, Ellington and Lynemouth Flash and singles at the Tweed Estuary and Widdrington Moor Lake. Further inland, four were at Grindon Lough on 8th (MSH) and one to two between 16th-27th (PRM/MRS), two at Branton gravel pits on 6th (JMA) and one at Haughton Strother GP on 10th (MR).



**Mandarin** *Aix galericulata*

A drake at QEII Lake on 2nd (ADMc) was the sole report.

**Wigeon** *Anas penelope*

Seven flew N at Seaton Sluice on 11th (SSWT). About 1,000 were in Budle Bay during the month (JPL), 450 were at Cresswell Pond on 12th (IRD), 429 at East Chevington north pool on 19th (TRC), 380 at Boulmer on 19th (AB/LB), 312 at Derwent Reservoir on 26th (IFo), and 151-198 at Big Waters (GB), Hoppen Kiln Flash (MSH) and Whittle Dene Reservoirs (MR) and 100-127 at the Aln Estuary and Bothal Pond. Counts of 58-90 came from Branton gravel pits, Grindon Lough and QEII Lake, and 22-40 at Boulmer, Lilburn Grange, Linton, Middle Ord and Swallow Ponds, Whittle Dene Reservoirs and Widdrington Moor Lake.

**Gadwall** *Anas strepera*

Peak counts were 35 at Big Waters on 2nd (GB), a notable 22 on the Blyth Estuary on 26th (LJM), 19 at Holywell Pond on 17th (SPP), 19 at Woodhorn Flashes on 14th (AT) and ten to 15 at Bothal and Cresswell Ponds (IRD) and East Chevington north pool (IJ). Six were at Hauxley Reserve, three to four at Castle Island, Holywell, Linton and Warkworth Lane Ponds and two at Arcot Pond, East Stobswold Pool, Hoppen Kiln Flash, QEII Lake and West Hartford. Display was noted at Big Waters on 23rd (GB).

**Teal** *Anas crecca*

Peak counts were 268 at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 17th (MR), 250 at Holy Island during month (IK), 205 at Hoppen Kiln Flash on 19th (MSH), 200 at Howdon on 8th (JH) and 120-158 at the Blyth Estuary (LJM) and Grindon Lough (PRM). Groups of 50-79 were at Arcot, Linton and Middle Ord Ponds, Big Waters, Elswick, Hauxley Reserve, Warkworth and West Hartford, and 23-46 at Bothal and Swallow Ponds, East Chevington, Plenmeller Common, St Mary's Wetland and Tyne Riverside CP.



A drake Teal at Cresswell Pond on 9th February by Janet Dean

**Green-winged Teal** *Anas carolinensis*

A drake found at Big Waters on 3rd remained most of the month and was noted displaying on occasion (AJJ/GB/SPP *et al.*).

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*

Holywell Pond held a peak of 183 on 17th (SPP), 112 were at the Tweed Estuary on 14th (MHu), 109 at Plessey Checks on 12th (TBr), 86-94 at Cocklawburn Pond (MHu) and Eland Hall (Ponteland) (GB), 50-66 at Grindon Lough, Haughton Strother GP, Marden Quarry, Newcastle Leazes Park and Whittle Dene Reservoirs, and 20-48 at Airy Holm Reservoir, Bothal and Middle Ord Ponds, Byker, Farnley Haughs, Hauxley Reserve, QEII Lake, Sweethope Lough, Widdrington Moor Lake. Ten to 18 were at ten further sites.



**Pintail** *Anas acuta*

200 were at Fenham Flats on 20th (JPL) and ten were noted there on 6th (TRD/JD). Away from this core area seven were at Druridge Pools on 6th (AT) and one to five regularly throughout the month (PCF/ASJ/NFO *et al.*) and two were at Cresswell Pond on 4th (IRD) and 8th-9th (CGK/GPK/TRD/JD).

**Shoveler** *Anas clypeata*

Swallow Pond attracted a peak of 16 on 11th-12th (LJM/SPP) and five to ten on several other dates between 2nd-24th (JPD/CDH), 15 were at Druridge Pools on 4th (MSH) and four to 12 between 5th-27th (TD/TRD/IFo *et al.*), seven at East Chevington on 19th (IFo), and three to four at Hoppen Kiln Flash, Killingworth Lake, Warkworth Lane and West Allotment Ponds. One to two also visited Big Waters, Bothal Pond, East Chevington and Monks' House Pool. Display was noted at Druridge Pools on 5th (IRD).

A Handsome drake Shoveler  
by Alan Jack on 20th February

**Pochard** *Aythya ferina*

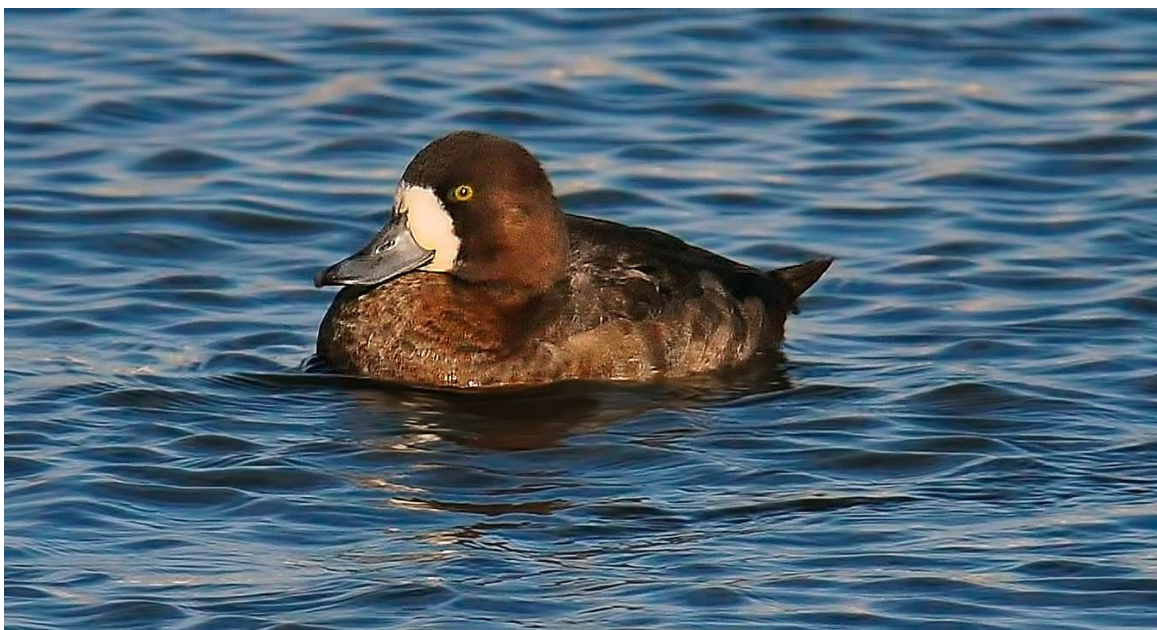
Killingworth Lake again proved the most productive site, attracting a peak of 36 on 21st (LJM), and 25-32 on several dates between 7th-27th (MSH/CGK/PS *et al.*). Other peak counts elsewhere were 17 at Swallow Pond on 25th (JPD), nine at Bothal Pond on 27th (STH/IFo), eight at Grindon Lough on 16th (MRS), and four to seven at Big Waters, Linton Pond and Woodhorn Flashes. One to two were also at Arcot Pond, Branton GP, Castle Island, East Chevington, QEII Lake and Tynemouth boating lake.

**Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula*

Killingworth Lake held 118 on 7th (MSH) and 73-116 between 16th-27th (IF/LJM *et al.*). Far fewer were noted elsewhere, with peaks of 41 at Branton GP on 16th (IBDa/KDa), 40 at East Chevington on 4th (MSH), 30 at QEII Lake on 16th (CDH), and 20-28 at Arcot Pond, Grindon Lough, Newcastle Exhibition and Leazes Parks, and Tynemouth boating lake. Counts of 14-19 came from Airy Holm and Whittle Dene Reservoirs, Big Waters, Bothal, Linton and Swallow Ponds, Hauxley Reserve, Howdon and Marden Quarry, and five to nine from Farnley Haughs, Haughton Strother GP and Jesmond Dene.

**Scaup** *Aythya marila*

A female/first-winter drake regularly commuted between Big Waters (GB *et al.*) and Killingworth Lake (AA/JBu/IF/MSH *et al.*) all month. Other single ducks were at Castle Island on 16th (DM/STH), Cresswell Pond on 2nd (TF/JFa), and East Chevington on 7th-8th (IRD/CGK/CPK). A first-winter drake was further inland at Sweethope Lough on 7th (PRM).



A Scaup at Killingworth Lake by Jack Bucknall



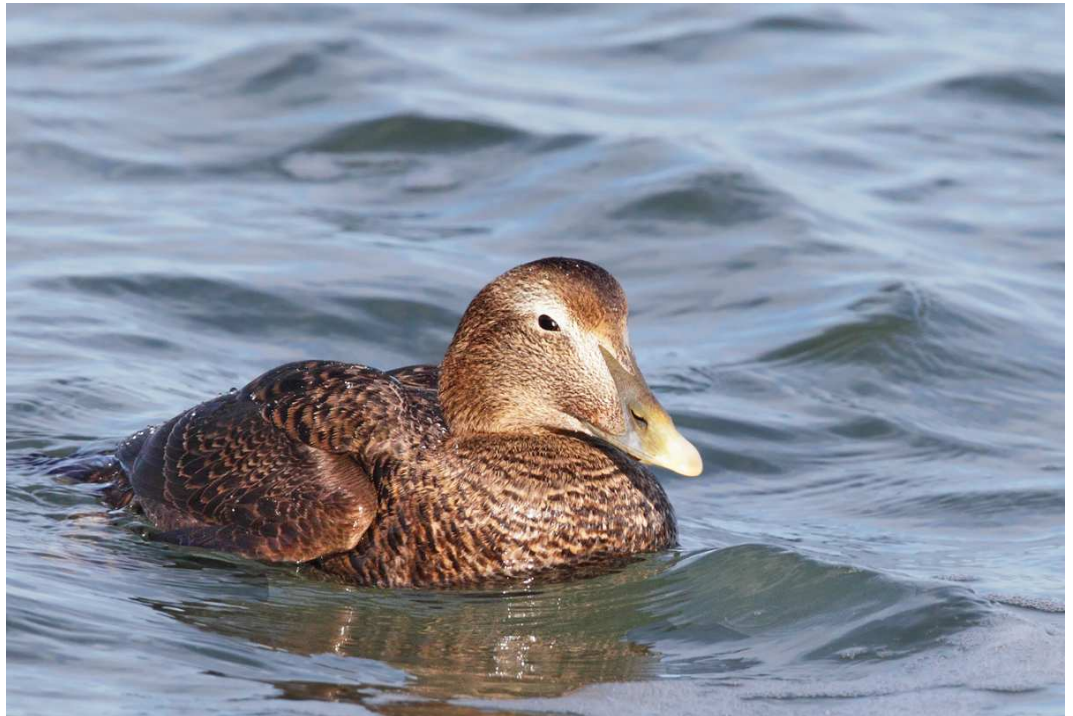
**Eider** *Somateria mollissima*

A total of 43 flew N and 28 S at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT). Only small numbers were reported along the coast, with peak counts of 25 at Tynemouth on 16th (MK), 23 at North Shields Fish Quay on 21st (MSH), and 20-22 at Berwick (MHu) and Stag Rocks (PRM). Groups of 12-17 were noted offshore at Old Hartley-Seaton Sluice, and four to nine were at Blyth Harbour, Spittal Bay and the Tweed Estuary.

Two female sea ducks at Stag  
Rocks

Photographed by Colin  
Bradshaw

Top: an Eider and  
bottom: a Common Scoter

**Long-tailed Duck** *Clangula hyemalis*

A drake flew S at St Mary's on 9th (JPD). Numbers at Stag Rocks peaked at 20+ on 19th (BRS) and six to 12 were regularly noted there between 1st-22nd (RB/MBJPL/SW *et al.*), seven were at Beadnell Bay (JPL), three were regularly at East Chevington north pool between 4th-27th (MSH/CGK *et al.*), and singles were at Druridge Pools on three dates between 9th-20th (TD/TRD/IF) and the Tweed Estuary on 6th (MHu). In January, 17 were at Guile Point (Lindisfarne NNR) on 19th (IBDa/KDa).

**Common Scoter** *Melanitta nigra*

A total of 48 moved N and 42 S at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT) and 14 flew S at Old Hartley on 2nd (MSH). Counts from Stag Rocks varied widely during the month, with peaks of 950 (no date; per NNBC) and 800 on 19th (BRS), while 100-600 were noted regularly. Elsewhere, 220 were at Beadnell Bay (no date; JPL), 122 at Cheswick on 28th (MHu), and 30-60 at Cocklawburn (MHu) and Druridge Bay (TRC). One to nine were off Alnmouth Bay, Blyth Harbour, Boulmer, East Chevington, Hartley, Newbiggin and Seaton Sluice. A drake visited Cresswell Pond on 2nd (ASH), while a duck was at Druridge Pools on four dates between 5th-27th (IRD/IF/STH/IFo).



**Velvet Scoter** *Melanitta fusca*

One S at St Mary's on 1st (JPD) was the sole report.

**Goldeneye** *Bucephala clangula*

A WeBS count of 206 at the Tweed Estuary on 14th (MHu) was the largest concentration, followed by 74 at New Water Haugh on 2nd (MHu), 59 at East Chevington on 7th (IRD), 30 at Killingworth Lake on 16th (CGK/PS), 23 at QEII Lake (CDH) and 12-15 at Branton GP (per NNBC), Castle Island (DM/STH), Grindon Lough (PRM) and Whittle Dene Reservoirs (MR). Five to eight were at Amble, Berwick North Shore, Bothal Pond, Hallington Reservoir, Warkworth and three to four at Catcleugh Reservoir, Hauxley Reserve, Swallow Pond and Sweethope Lough. One to two were at six further sites. In January, seven to eight were at Seahouses and Stag Rocks.

**Red-breasted Merganser** *Mergus serrator*

14 at the Tweed Estuary on 14th (MHu) and 12 at Spittal Bay on 16th (MHu) were the largest single counts, followed by six to seven at Beadnell (JPL), Druridge Bay (TRC) and Ladyburn Lake (IF), and three to four at Alnmouth Bay, Berwick North Shore, the Blyth Estuary, Stag Rocks and Warkworth. One to two visited Cresswell Pond, East Chevington and Hauxley Reserve. Four were at Widdrington Moor Lake on 6th (AT), two at Maiden's Hall Lake (West Chevington) on 16th and 20th (RB/MB/TRD) and one at East Stobswold Pools on 20th (TRD).



A Red Breasted Merganser  
Stag Rocks  
by Colin Bradshaw

**Goosander** *Mergus merganser*

14 (seven drakes) were at Greenlee Lough on 16th (MRS), 11 at Branton GP on 17th (JD), five at Haughton Strother GP on 10th (MR), five at the Tweed Estuary on 14th (MHu) and three at Killingworth Lake, Marden Quarry and Wark. One to two were also at Airy Holm and Whittle Dene Reservoirs, Big Waters, Derwent Reservoir, Grindon Lough, Hexham, Jesmond Dene, Newburn, Newcastle Leazes Park, QEII Lake, Rothbury, Thrum Mill, Tyne Riverside CP, Warkworth and Wylam.

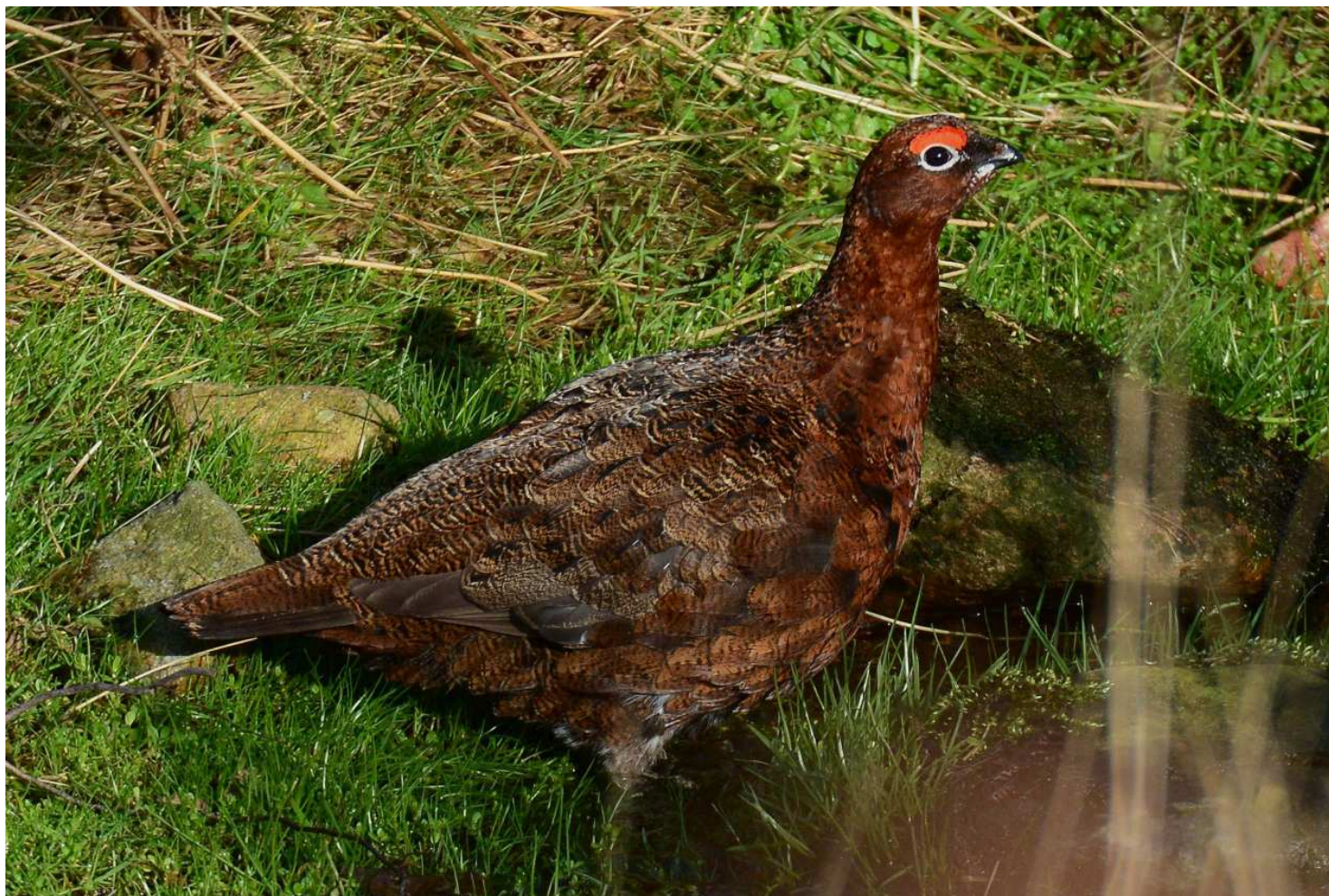
**Red-legged Partridge** *Alectoris rufa*

On 9th 12 were at Chillingham (SW). One to four were noted at Big Waters, Harthope Valley, Holburn, Old Hartley, Plenmeller Common, Shank Head (Kingswood Burn) and Warton.



**Red Grouse** *Lagopus lagopus*

The peak counts were 17 on Plenmeller Common on 7th (PRM) and 15 in the Harthope Valley on 25th (TRD/JD). Singles were noted at Alnwick Moor and Lordenshaw.



A Red Grouse at Harthope by Tim Dean on 25th February

**Black Grouse** *Tetrao tetrix*

The peak counts were 14 (five males) at Plenmeller Common on 6th (PRM) and 13 males at Kirkhaugh (South Tyne) on 21st (JSB/EC). Five males were at Swinhope Shield on 16th (JPD). Single females were seen at Coanwood Pond on 22nd (AA) and in the Harthope Valley on 25th (JD).

**Grey Partridge** *Perdix perdix*

In the Lucker area 25 were present throughout the month (NNBC). Eight were at Bothal Pond on 1st (TD), six at Beacon Hill (Cramlington) on 28th (STH) and five throughout the month at Cresswell (CW). Two to four were noted at Cheveley, Cresswell Link, Druridge and Woodhorn Flashes.

**Pheasant** *Phasianus colchicus*

Seven (six females) were in a Walbottle garden on 23rd (KR/LR). One to two were at East Chevington North Pool and Holywell Dene.

**Red-throated Diver** *Gavia stellata*

This species continued to be very well reported this month with 40 records being received. At Seaton Sluice 135 flew S and 56 N in 37 hours of sea-watching with a peak count of 23 in two hours on 11th (SSWT). Nine flew S at St Mary's Island on 7th (JBU) with eight there on 9th and seven on 1st (JPD). Peak offshore counts were 34 at Cocklawburn on 4th (BWG/TBr), 33 at St Mary's Island on 19th (JPD), 21 at Newbiggin on 6th (AT), 19 in Alnmouth Bay on 19th (AB/LB), 14 off Brier Dene on 16th (SPP), 13 in Druridge Bay on 19th (TRC) and ten off Stag Rocks on 17th/19 h (PRM/BRS). One to eight were noted at Annstead, Berwick North Shore, Cheswick, Coquet Estuary, East Chevington, Emmanuel Head (Holy Island), Guile Point (Lindisfarne NNR), Seaton Sluice, Snab Point, Spittal Bay and the Tweed Estuary. An additional record from January 2014 was 15 off Stag Rocks on 15th (DGB).

**Black-throated Diver** *Gavia arctica*

Two flew N at Emmanuel Head (Holy Island) on 14th (IK) and one flew S at St Mary's Island on 9th (JPD/MPF/AS). Four were in Alnmouth Bay on 19th (AB/LB). Two were off Stag Rocks on 16th (SVM/AJM) with a single noted there on 1st/4th (TF/JFa/IBDa/KDa). Singles were also noted at Holy Island on 7th (NNBC) and Coquet Estuary on 15th (NNBC). An immature was noted from several locations including Druridge Pools, East Chevington North Pool and Maiden's Hall Lake, as it wandered around the Druridge Bay area from 7th to the end of the month (many observers).



**Great Northern Diver** *Gavia immer*

At Seaton Sluice one flew S on 9th (SSWT). Singles were noted at Stag Rocks on 17th (PRM) and Cheswick on 28th (MHu).

**Fulmar** *Fulmarus glacialis*

Only light passage was noted at Seaton Sluice with a peak of 44 S in 2 hours on 5th (SSWT). At Coves Bay (Holy Island) the number of returning birds peaked at 15 on 28th (IK). Several pairs were noted at the following breeding sites; Bamburgh Castle, Howick, Needles Eye (Berwick), and Seahouses (NNBC). One to two were noted at Cocklawburn, Stag Rocks and the Tweed Estuary.

**Gannet** *Morus bassanus*

Only very light passage was noted at Seaton Sluice with a total of seven S and six N during the month (SSWT). Small parties were also seen heading N at sea during the month in North Northumberland (NNBC). One flew S at Stag Rocks on 9th (SW) and ten were seen off Newbiggin on 26th (AT).

**Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

No noticeable movement occurred at Seaton Sluice, although small numbers were seen throughout the month (SSWT). The peak counts were 48 at Blyth Harbour on 28th (STH), 42 at North Shields Fish Quay on 26th (PRM), 19 at Amble Harbour on 20th (LJM), 18 at Meadow Haven (Berwick) on 21st (MHu), and 17 at Berwick North Shore on 13th (MHu). Elsewhere 15 were at Derwent Reservoir on 26th (IFO), 12 at Sandstell Point (Berwick) on 6th (MHu), nine in the Tweed Estuary on 14th (MHu) and eight at Elswick Wharf on 3rd (DM). One to six were noted at Arcot Pond, Big Waters, the Blyth Estuary, Bothal Pond, Castle Island, East Chevington North Pool, Grindon Lough, Hallington Reservoir, Holywell Dene, Newburn Riverside, Newcastle Quayside, QEII Lake, Rothley Lakes, Tyne Riverside CP (Prudhoe) and Whittle Dene Reservoirs.

**\*Continental Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis*

Two were at North Shields Fish Quay on 22nd (KWY) where one was present on 21st (MSH).



A 'Continental' Cormorant in Amble Harbour by Tim Dean on 26th February

**Shag** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

At Seaton Sluice 15 flew S and nine N during the month (SSWT). 20 were off Stag Rocks on 17th (PRM) and 15 at Berwick North Shore on 13th (MHu). In the Berwick area seven were also at Sandstell Point on 6th and six at Meadow Haven on 21st (MHu). One to three were at Blyth South Harbour, Holy Island Castle, Newbiggin, North Shields Fish Quay, Seaton Sluice and the Tweed Estuary.

**Bittern** *Botaurus stellaris*

Two were still present at Gosforth Park NR on 9th (JPD/MPF/AS). A single was at Cresswell Pond on 4th (ADMc) and at Whiteadder Point (Berwick) one flew upstream and landed in the reed bed on 12th (TBr/BWG).



**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*

A single was in Budle Bay on 16th (NNBC). Additional records from January 2014 were singles at Berwick on 14th, Paxton on 20th, Goswick GC on 22nd (NNBC) and in Budle Bay on 16th/23rd (JPL/NNBC).

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*

The peak counts were seven in the Tweed Estuary on 14th (MHu) and at Widdrington Moor Lake also on 14th (MSH) and five at Bellasis Bridge on 15th (PCF) and Druridge Pools on 27th (IFo). One to four were noted at Alnmouth, Arcot Pond, Hauxley Linton Ponds, Prudhoe, Swallow Pond, Tyne Riverside CP (Prudhoe), Wark, Whittle Dene Reservoirs and Wylam.

**\*Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus*

One was near the unusual location of the *Blue Reef Aquarium* (Tynemouth) from 19th-22nd (ASJ *et al.*) having been first seen by a local resident on 15th.

The popular, and unexpected, Glossy Ibis  
at Tynemouth  
Chris Barlow

**Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Although trilling was heard at several sites, the peak counts were only four at Cresswell Pond on 9th (TRD/JD), Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 23rd (SR) and Swallow Pond on 24th (SPP). Three were in the Tweed Estuary on 14th (MHu) and Hauxley NR on 27th (STH/IFo). One to two were noted at Airy Holm Reservoir (Shotleyfield), Big Waters, Bothal Pond, Castle Island, East Chevington North Pool, Holywell Pond and Linton Ponds.

**Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus*

The peak counts were four in the Coquet Estuary on 15th (NNBC) and three off Warkworth beach on 26th (JPD). Two were in Alnmouth Bay on 19th (AB/LB), at Bothal Pond on 20th (TF/JFa) and at East Chevington North Pool on 26th/27th (JPD/TRD/STH/IFo). Numbers increased to two at Derwent Reservoir on 24th from a single on 22nd (IFo). Singles were noted at Bothal Pond, Farnley Haughs, Killingworth Lake and Whittle Dene Reservoirs. One flew N at Seaton Sluice on 9th (SSWT). Two were offshore at Druridge Pools on 10th (EC). Singles were at Meadow Haven (Berwick) on 2nd (MHu), Killingworth Lake on 3rd (ASJ), Cresswell Pond on 8th (TRD/JD), Ross Back Sands on 8th (MR), Seaton Sluice on 11th, offshore at Cresswell on 16th (PRM) and QEII Lake on 23rd (PG).

**Red-necked Grebe** *Podiceps grisegena*

Singles were at Stag Rocks on 1st/17th (TF/JFa/PRM) and in Spittal Bay on 5th (MHu). Another single remained at East Chevington North Pool from 7th until the end of the month (IRD *et al.*).

**Slavonian Grebe** *Podiceps auritus*

The peak count at Stag Rocks was a minimum of five on 1st (TF/JFa) with two on two further dates. A maximum count of five was observed off St Cuthbert's Island (Holy Island) on 17th (IK). Two were present from 2nd until the end of the month at East Chevington North Pool (TF/JFa *et al.*). Singles were noted at Widdrington Moor Lake on 14th, Elwick on 16th, Warkworth Weir on 21st/22nd/26th, Spittal Bay on 23rd and Cheswick on 28th.



A handsome Slavonian Grebe at Warkworth weir by Jonathan Farooqi on 23rd February

**Red Kite** *Milvus milvus*

Single birds were seen at Heddon-on-the-Wall on 5th (AA), Derwent Reservoir (IFo) & Throckley (JSB) on 22nd, and at Gosforth Park NR on 24th (MPF).

**Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*

An early returning bird, an immature female, was noted at Cresswell Pond & East Chevington on 9<sup>th</sup>; this is the first February record for the County. Two birds were noted at Maiden's Hall on 16th (ASJ/RB/MB), other sightings involved single birds in the Cresswell Pond, East Chevington & West Chevington areas until 28th (ADM/ASH *et al.*).

**Hen Harrier** *Circus cyaneus*

A belated record involved a single bird at Monks' House on 22nd January (per NNBC); a male was seen in the N of the County on several dates (BWG/NNBC).

**Goshawk** *Accipiter gentilis*

Three sightings this month involving single birds at Haggerston on 20th (JPL), near Coupland on 24th (JD) and a male displaying over Harwood Forest on 28th (PH).

**Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*

Up to three birds were seen in the observer's garden at Dinnington throughout the month including two together on 28th (PCF); two birds were also present at West Hartford on 28th (STH). Single birds were noted at 17 other sites including a female which caught a Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto* at Belsay on 21st (MD).



An alert Sparrowhawk in a Rothbury garden by Tim Dean

**Common Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*

10 were at Haughton Strother GP on 4th (MR), eight were at Hulne Park (Alnwick) on 8th (STH), seven were seen at Newcastle Airport on 28th (IF), six were at Hulne Park on 17th (PRM) and four were at Big Waters on 2nd (GB). One to three birds were seen at 21 sites during the month.

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetuss*

An early bird circled East of Bakethin Weir for ten minutes on 25th (JSB/EC).

**Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus*

Swallow Pond peaked with three birds on 24th and 25th (JPD/SPP) and three were at Prestwick Carr on 19th (PCF). Two birds were at Cresswell Pond on 20th (ADM/); single birds were also at Branton GPs, Cresswell Pond, East Chevington, Hauxley, Holy Island, Prestwick Carr and Swallow Pond including a bird trying to kill a Dunnock *Prunella modularis* at Hauxley NWT on 21st (IRD).





A Water Rail at Hauxley NR by Tim Dean on 20th February

**Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*

31 birds were present at Rising Sun CP (Wallsend) on 11th (LJM), 29 were at Lyne Burn (Lynemouth) on 6th (IRD) and 13 at Big Waters feeding station on 9th (GB). One to nine birds were at eight other sites during the month.

**Coot** *Fulica atra*

Killingworth Lake had the highest count with 72 birds present on 17th (IF), Big Waters had a count of 54 on 2nd (GB), 47 were at Woodhorn Flashes on 14th (AT) and 37 were at QEII CP on 16th (CDH). 21 birds were at Arcot Pond on 9th (STH), 16 birds were at Bothal Pond on 13th (TD) Druridge Pools on 17th (IF) and East Chevington on 22nd (IJ) and 13 were at Holy Island Lough on 7th (NNBC). One to eight were at Castle Island, Hauxley NR, Holywell Dene, Howdon and Leazes Park (Newcastle).

**Crane** *Grus grus*

A bird flew S at Embleton on 7th (NNBC).

**Avocet** *Recurvirostra avosetta*

A pair of early returning birds arrived at Cresswell Pond on 23rd and remained until 25th (IRD/PRF/AA).

**Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus*

The roost on St Cuthbert's Island (Holy Island) held ca.600 early in the month before falling to 200 by month end (IK). The WeBS count at Berwick North Shore totalled 220 on 13th (MHu), 99 were at Cresswell Pond on 19th (TRC) and 87 at St Mary's Island on 24th (MSH). Further coastal locations held 48-62 birds including Bamburgh, North Blyth (roost), the Tweed Estuary, Tynemouth and West Ord. Inland Derwent Reservoir attracted 29 early returning birds on 18th, and 12-24 were seen at Branton GP, Bywell Haughs, Haughton Strother GP, Hauxley NWT, Norham (St Thomas' Island), Pegswood Community Park and Whittle Dene Reservoirs. Single-figure reports came from a number of locations as birds began to disperse and return to breeding sites e.g. Airy Holm Reservoir, Big Waters, Bothal Pond, Chollerford, Farnley (Corbridge), Grindon Lough, Kielder Dam, Killingworth Lake, Prestwick Carr and Wark. A late report for January involved 31 at Hauxley NWT on 13th.



An Oystercatcher at Druridge Bay CP  
27th February by Tim Dean



**Golden Plover** *Pluvialis apricaria*

Flock sizes began to diminish this month, the peaks being 500 at Budle Bay (no date) (per NNBC) and 200+ at Old Hartley on 13th (MSH). A flock of 120 flew S at Ellington on 8th (TB) and 120 were counted at Pegswood Community Park on 24th (AT). A flock of 50 were noted resting in a field at Hazlerigg (Wideopen) between 21st-27th (GB), 49 were at inland Plenmeller Common on 7th (PRM) and 30 were seen flying W at Hazlerigg on 6th (GB) and at Plessey Checks (Cramlington) on 21st (TB). Hauxley NWT attracted seven on 17th, three were at Beacon Hill, Cramlington on 1st and a lone bird fed on the Royal Grammar School (Jesmond) playing field at night on 11th.

**Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*

The highest counts were 23 in Budle Bay on 4th (JSB/EC), 21 at Church Point (Newbiggin) on 6th (AT) and 20 at Boulmer on 16th (RB/MB). Elsewhere, one to two were seen at Berwick Little Beach, Budle Bay, Hauxley beach and St Mary's Island. Three were also at Hauxley NWT on 30th January.

**Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus*

Numbers at Budle Bay reached as high as 2,000 and 600 were at nearby Annstead during the month (no dates) (per NNBC). Some 500+ were at Hoppen Kiln Flash (Bradford Kaims) on 19th (MSH), 380 were at Haughton Strother GP on 14th (MR), 300 at Fenwick on 15th (JMA) and Derwent Reservoir on 18th (IFo), 260 at Cresswell Pond on 5th (IRD) and 250 at St Mary's on 10th (ASJ). 200 were at Blyth on 16th (ASJ) and 100-154 were noted at Big Waters, Hallington Reservoir, Hauxley NWT, Howdon, Plenmeller Common and Widdrington Moor Lake during the month. Passage at Seaton Sluice totalled 64 S between 4th-5th (SSWT) and 60 moved W over Prestwick Carr on 21st (IK). Smaller flocks of 30-39 were also present at Grindon Lough, Plessey Checks (Cramlington), West Hartford and Woodhorn Flashes, and even smaller groups at four further sites.



A Lapwing at Howdon Wetland by Colin Bradshaw

**Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*

A party of 26 flew N at Berwick on 21st and 12 were at Cocklawburn on 18th (MHu). Ten were on Hauxley beach on 19th (IFo) and singles were seen at Bamburgh on 9th (IJ) and Widdrington Moor Lake on 6th (AT).

**Curlew** *Numenius arquata*

Hauxley NWT attracted the highest flock with 170 on 17th (HRS), whilst counts at St Mary's included 143 on 10th (ASJ) and 128 on 24th (CDH). The peak at Cocklawburn was 88 on 18th (MHu). The highest daily count from Seaton Sluice was 87 N on 13th as birds made regular movements between St Mary's and nearby feeding areas (SSWT). Estuary counts included 72 on the Tweed on 14th (MHu) and 70 on the Blyth on 16th (ASJ). Elsewhere, counts of 31-44 came from Berwick North Shore, Cheswick, Haughton Strother GP, Howdon, Prestwick Carr and West Ord; 11-17 were at Elswick (Newcastle Business Park), Grindon Lough, Hartley Bay, Prestwick Carr and Woodhorn Flashes and single-figure reports came from Bothal Pond and East Chevington. A late report for January concerned 114 at Hauxley NWT on 13th.



A Curlew in the surf by Tim Dean on 9th February

**Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa*

The wintering birds remained on the Blyth Estuary and peaked at nine on 18th and 26th (LJM). Two were present for most of the month at the Rocket Field pools (Holy Island) but there was a peak of seven on 15th (IK). Five were at Druridge Pools on 9th (TRD/JD) and three were at Hoppen Kiln Flash (Bradford Kaims) on 16th (per NNBC). One to two were at Hauxley NWT between 15th-21st (NFO/HRS/IRD) and two were noted in Budle Bay on 19th (MRS). During January, three were at Hauxley NWT on 30th.

**Bar-tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica*

A tight flock of 36 were sheltering from gale-force winds at Berwick Little Beach on 6th; 27 were counted at Berwick North Shore on 13th and 17 were on the Tweed Estuary on 7th (MHu). The Blyth Estuary birds peaked at 20 on 1st (JMA) and a total of 17 was counted at Hauxley NWT on 27th (STH/IFo). Budle Bay held ten birds on 6th (TRD/JD), five were on Hauxley beach on 19th (IFo), three were at Lynemouth Flash on 22nd including one in transitional plumage (MSH), two were at Cresswell Pond on 22nd (IRD) and one at New Water Haugh (Tweed) on 2nd was considered scarce this far up the river (MHu). Six were also at Hauxley NWT on 30th January.

**Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*

St Mary's had 88 on 8th (KWY), 58 were at Berwick North Shore on 13th (MHu) and 15 to 26 at Cresswell Pond, North Shields, R Tweed Estuary and Tynemouth. Six or fewer were found at Bamburgh, Howdon and Newbiggin.

**Knot** *Calidris canutus*

Fenham Flats attracted 950 on 16th (IBDa). Other counts were more modest: 16 in R Tweed Estuary on 5th, up to eight at Cresswell Pond, six at Amble on 22nd and one at Bamburgh on 9th.

Late record: 1320 at Fenham Flats on 19th Jan (IBDA/KDa).

**Sanderling** *Calidris alba*

Around 100 were at Beadnell during the month (JPL), peaks of 72 at St Mary's on 24th (CDH) and again of 70 at Holy Island (IK). Low Hauxley held 45 on 19th, 42 were at Berwick Little Beach on 6th, 30 at Cocklawburn on 12th and 23 at Berwick North Shore on 13th. Ten to 16 were noted at Berwick (Spittal), North Shields and Stag Rocks with one to three at four other places.

Late record: 57 at Ross Back Sands on 20th Jan (per NNBC).

**Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*

At Seaton Sluice 25 flew N on 26th. The monthly maximum in the Blyth Estuary was 384 on 18th (LJM) and 310 were at Boulmer Haven on 19th (AB/LB). Cresswell Pond had a peak of 136 on 1st (ASJ) down to 70 by 27th and St Mary's had a peak of 120+ on 24th (MSH). Tynemouth had 71 on 9th (SPP), up to 50 were in the Hauxley area, small numbers appeared at Berwick, Cocklawburn and Snab Point and also one at Grindon Lough on 27th.

**Purple Sandpiper** *Calidris maritima*

Stag Rocks held up to 60 (per NNBC), 42 were at Berwick North Shore on 13th (MHu) 17 at Blyth Harbour on 28th, 13 at Boulmer on 16th, 11 at St Mary's on 4th and ten at Holy Island on 28th. Single-figure counts came from Hauxley, Newbiggin, Seaton Sluice and Tynemouth.



Two northern waders at Stag Rocks  
Left: a Purple Sandpiper by Eddie Douglas and  
right: the popular Grey Phalarope by Chris Barlow

**\*Grey Phalarope** *Phalaropus fulicarius*

The individual from late January remained at Stag Rocks until 9th (TF/JFa *et al.*). It or another flew S close inshore there on 17th (PRM).



**Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*

Singles were noted on several days at Whittle Dene Reservoirs and also two on 21st (EC/JSB *et al.*). One was at Branton GP on 3rd, singles at Haughton Strother GP on 10th and 19th and one at Hedgeley GP on 16th.

Late record: one along R Breamish on 8th and 19th Jan.

**Redshank** *Tringa totanus*

The Tweed Estuary produced 218 on 14th (MHu) and respective monthly peaks were of 203 at Howdon on 20th (CB), 153 at St Mary's on 2nd (MSH) and 119 at Cresswell Pond on 19th (TRC). Around 100 were in the Blyth Estuary on 1st (JMA) and 20 to 26 at Berwick, Hauxley, Hoppen Kiln Flash and Newcastle Business Park. One or two visited Bamburgh, Bothal Pond and Pegswood Community Park.

**Jack Snipe** *Limnocyptes minimus*

Two were at Grindon Lough on 20th (PRM) and singles at West Hartford on 4th (STH), Prestwick Carr on 19th (GB), St Mary's Wetland on 24th (MSH) and at Hoppen Kiln Flash on 28th (*per* NNBC).

Late record: one at Hoppen Kiln Flash on 16th Jan (*per* NNBC).

**Woodcock** *Scolopax rusticola*

Two were noted at Longhorsley Moor on 3rd and 25th (AB/LB). Singles were reported from Grindon Lough on three dates and on one date each from Alnwick Moor, Big Waters, Druridge Pools, Howdon, Rothbury and Tynemouth.

**Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*

The peak count at Howdon was 58 on 25th (CB) and 38 were at Grindon Lough on 20th (PRM). Druridge Pools had ten on 27th, Holywell Pond eight on 17th and smaller numbers visited nine other widespread locations.

**Razorbill** *Alca torda*

At least 12 were noted at Stag Rocks on 19th (BRS) but only three were specifically identified at Seaton Sluice in the lower than average auk numbers passing the watch tower throughout the month (SSWT). Singles elsewhere were at Old Harley on 2nd and Newbiggin Beacon Point on 26th.

**Little Auk** *Alle alle*

The only record was a single at Stag Rocks on 10th (David Locktone).

**Guillemot** *Uria aalge*

A count of 95 S in two hours was the monthly maximum at Seaton Sluice, but otherwise only small numbers were recorded there throughout the month (SSWT). During the first week, 16 were seen at Berwick on 6th (MHu) and ten at Seaton Sluice on 1st (KWY) with one to nine at Berwick North Shore, Cheswick, Cocklawburn, East Chevington, Old Hartley and St Mary's Island on various dates throughout the month (TRD/JD/MSH/MHu/CDH).

**Kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla*

The species was very scarce this month, with a total of only 13 (9N, 4S) recorded passing the Seaton Sluice watch point (SSWT). Elsewhere on the coast, singles were at Berwick (MHu) and Blyth Harbour (STH) but more unusual sightings were of a single, with Common Gulls, at Kielder Water on 9th (MD) and another at Haughton Strother GP (Humshaugh) on 18th (MR), indicative of the north-west movement across the county at this time of year.

**Black-headed Gull** *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

Peak counts were ca.1,000 at New Water Haugh on the River Tweed on two dates, 2nd and 23rd, with ca.680 at West Ord (Berwick) also on the latter date (MHu). Other gatherings of 80-250 were at Berwick North Shore, Jesmond Dene, Leazes Park Lake, Prestwick Carr, QEII CP Lake and the River Tweed Estuary on various dates (MJCo/PCF/MHu/CDH/DM) with one to 22 at five other localities. A Norwegian colour-ringed winter visitor, white J72J, again at Amble on 1st (PCF), has been noted there since 2005.



A Black-headed Gull  
Wallsend  
Adriana Buskin



**Little Gull** *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

Well reported again this month following the unusual winter influx late last month. At Seaton Sluice, three adults and six 1st-winters passed (2N, 7S) from 1st-23rd (SSWT) and from 1st-6th, five, including two adults, were at Berwick (MHu), up to four at Stag Rocks (IBDa/KDa/TF/JFa/JPL), three at Newbiggin Church Point (AT) with singles elsewhere at North Shields and St Mary's Island. Single adults were also present at Cresswell Pond on 14th and at Beadnell on 20th.

**Mediterranean Gull** *Larus melanocephalus*

The maximum count at the favoured Newbiggin south beach was at least ten on 16th, including the colour-ringed bird seen last month, yellow 2H62, ringed at Great Yarmouth in November 2013 (TF/JFa). One to two adults were at Swallow Pond on a number of dates up to 20th (JPD/SPP) and singles were recorded at five other localities, Amble Harbour, Brier Dene, Cresswell Pond, Prestwick Carr and St Mary's Island.



A splendid Mediterranean Gull at Newbiggin  
by Jonathan Farooqi on 16th February

**Common Gull** *Larus canus*

Poorly reported this month when usually several large gatherings are reported and the spring passage northwards is commencing. The peak counts were 3,000 in the roost at Kielder Water on 9th (MD), 500 at Haughton Strother GP, Humshaugh on 10th (MR), 200 at Pegswood Community Park on 24th (AT) and 90 at Big Waters on 23rd (GB). In the Berwick area, WeBS counts on the 13th-14th, included 26 at North Shore and 16 in the River Tweed Estuary (MHu). One to three were at four other sites.



A Common Gull  
Druridge Bay CP  
Tim Dean  
27th February

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus graelsii*

Up to mid-month, only the over-wintering birds at Cramlington (DM) and Swallow Pond (JPD/SPP), and a 1st-winter at Haughton Strother GP (MR) were noted, but thereafter increased sightings reflected the return passage. Seven were at Swallow Pond on 24th (SPP) with four at Haughton Strother GP on 27th and three on the River Tyne at Newburn on 26th (PRM). One to two, almost all adult birds, were at nine other localities mainly in or close to the Newcastle conurbation but also at Grindon Lough and Hauxley NWT; an adult at Grindon Lough on 21st showed the characteristics of *L.f.fuscus* (JSB/EC).

**Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus argenteus*

The River Tweed Estuary held the largest gathering of 312, found during a WeBS survey on 14th (MHu) and elsewhere, 88 were at Haughton Strother GP on 6th (MR), 51, an 'unprecedented number' at Bothal Pond on 1st (TD) and 42 at Berwick North Shore on 13th (MHu). Apart from 15 at Killingworth Lake on 22nd, all other records were of one to five at five other sites, Arcot Pond, Bamburgh, Jesmond Dene, Leazes Park and Walbottle.

A Herring Gull with a meal  
at Stag Rocks by Chris Barlow

**'Northern' Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus argentatus*

Birds of this northern race included five at Newburn on 26th (PRM) and singles at Killingworth Lake on 9th (MSH) and North Shields Fish Quay on 22nd (KWY).

**\*Yellow-legged Gull** *Larus michahellis*

A 1st-winter briefly visited Newburn on 26th (PRM).

A first winter Yellow-legged Gull  
Newburn  
26th February  
Paul Massey

**Iceland Gull** *Larus glaucooides*

An adult flew N at Seaton Sluice on 13th (SSWT) and an immature visited the Tynemouth boating lake on 16th (MK/DRW); also on 16th, an un-aged was reported from Newbiggin (AT). On 21st-22nd an immature, identified as the bird seen on the 16th at Tynemouth, was again in the Tynemouth and North Shields Fish Quay area (JPD/MSH/SPP/DRW).



An Iceland Gull on Tynemouth Boating Lake by Colin Bradshaw



**Glaucous Gull** *Larus hyperboreus*

On 25th, two immatures were on Monks' House Pool (*per* NNBC) and the only other report was a 2nd calendar year bird flying S at Seaton Sluice on 27th (SSWT).

**Great Black-backed Gull** *Larus marinus*

The Berwick area held a maximum count of 43 in the River Tweed Estuary on 5th and 12 at North Shore on 13th (MHu) but all other records comprised one to seven, on dates throughout the month, at Bothal Pond, Elswick Wharf (River Tyne), Grindon Lough and Haughton Strother GP.

**Stock Dove** *Columba oenas*

The peak count for the month at Howdon was 56 on 20th with 25 on 2nd and 23 on 28th (CB). 15 were at Big Waters on 2nd (GB), 13 at Marden Quarry (Whitley Bay) on 9th (KWY), eight at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 1st and seven at St Mary's Island on 4th with one to five at nine other widespread localities.

**Woodpigeon** *Columba palumbus*

By far the largest gathering of 3,300 at Whittle Dene on 16th (SR), 750 going to roost over the A1 at Adderstone Mains on 22nd (CB), 400 at Whiteadder Water (Berwick) on 6th (TBr) and at Big Waters on 23rd (GB). Numbers at Hartley West Farm varied from 50 to 150 during the month with one to 78 at Jesmond Dene, Seghill and Warkworth Weir.

**Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*

Four were at Throckley on 24th (PCF) with two the highest count in the observer's garden at nearby Walbottle on 23rd (KR/LR).

**Barn Owl** *Tyto alba*

At least three were present regularly at Holy Island Village during the month (IK), one at Branton on 3rd (IBDa/KDa) and one flew over the road at Forestburn Gate on 9th (SW).

**Little Owl** *Athene noctua*

Two were present at Shiremoor throughout the month (CGK *et al.*), one at Beaconhill (Cramlington) on 1st and possibly the same individual at Beacon Lane (Cramlington) on 22nd (STH/DM).

**Tawny Owl** *Strix aluco*

All reports were of singles with a female at Wark (N.Tyne) on 6th (PRM), at Forestburn Gate on 9th (SW), a male calling at Newcastle Airport on 21st (IF), Walbottle on 25th (KR/LR) and Grindon Lough on 26th (PRM).

**Owl** (*sp*)

An Asio species Owl hunted after dark at Prestwick Carr on 4th and 11th (PCF).

**Short-eared Owl** *Asio flammeus*

Three were at Holy Island on 16th and 19th (SR/AH/IBDa/KDa) with singles noted there on 2nd and 11th. On 4th a single was at West Hartford and at Adderstone (STH/ *per* NNBC), one at East Chevington on 9th (TRD/JD), Woodhorn on 14th (MSH) and Prestwick Carr on 24th and 28th (PCF).

**Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*

During the month two were present at Branton GP (IBDa/KDa) and singles seen regularly at Jesmond Dene from 1st to 19th (MJCo/DHWP). Singles were also at Haughton Strother GP on 14th, Weetslade Colliery CP on 16th, Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 17th and Druridge Bay CP, Tyne Riverside (Newburn) and Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) all on 27th.

**Green Woodpecker** *Picus viridis*

One gave an early morning call at Rothbury on 20th (TRD/JD) and one was at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 23rd (TB).

**Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major*

At Holywell Dene five were found on 9th (KWY), four at Scotch Gill Woods (Morpeth) on 21st (MJC), three around the car park at Big Waters on 15th (IK), two in an Old Hartley garden, East Chevington / Druridge Bay CP and Jesmond Dene during the month with singles at these and eight other widespread localities.

A Great Spotted Woodpecker  
in a Rothbury garden  
by Janet Dean on 21st February

**Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*

Pairs were noted at Big Waters, Grindon Lough, Holburn Village, Howdon, Laverock Hall (Blyth), Linton Pond, Sleekburn, Warkworth, Widdrington Moor Lake and Woodhorn. 32 records involving single birds came from 27 sites. (TB *et al.*).



**Merlin** *Falco columbarius*

A late record involved a single bird at Stag Rocks on 25th January. A bird was observed at Lucker throughout the month (NNBC); other records involving single birds came from Akeld on 1st (JD), Corbridge on 2nd (MR), Cresswell Pond on 9th (ASH), Guile Point (Lindisfarne) on 16th (IBDa), Spindlestone on 17th (NNBC) and Wallsend Swallow Pond on 27th (ASJ).

**Peregrine** *Falco peregrinus*

Late records came from Powburn on 11th & 20th January (IBDa/KDa/SVM). Two sub-adults were noted regularly on Holy Island throughout February (IK). Single birds were noted at Holy Island, Cramlington and Fenham Flats on 2nd, Budle Bay on 4th, Howdon on 8th and 23rd, Tynemouth Priory on 10th, Maiden's Hall Lake & Alnmouth on 16th, Berwick on 22nd and 24th, Cresswell Pond on 25th, Lucker on 26th, Newcastle on 27th and at Whittle Dene on 28th. A male was at a nest site in the SW of the County on 11th (JSB/EC).

**Rose-ringed Parakeet** *Psittacula krameri*

A single, possibly one of the group present in December, was noted at Heaton Park on 19th (JPD).

**Magpie** *Pica pica*

The largest count was 82 at Swallow Pond on 25th (JPD) with ten at Howdon on 28th (CB), nine at Jesmond Dene on 9th (MJCo), seven at Prestwick Carr on 1st and five the peak monthly count in a Walbottle garden on 9th (KR/LR).

**Jay** *Garrulus glandarius*

Four were at Ewart on 24th (JD), two at Swallow Pond on 2nd and 4th (JPD) and Ulgham Lane on 4th (AT) with singles at Arcot Pond, Eshott, Gosforth Park, Kilham and Longhirst Station.

**Jackdaw** *Corvus monedula*

Around 400 foraged in a winter wheat field at Beacon Hill (Cramlington) on 1st (DM), 150 were at Deanmoor (A1) on 6th (JMA), 105 at Linton Ponds on 16th (CDH), 80 in one tree in Alnwick town centre on 2nd with 50 at Belsay on 7th and Ponteland on 22nd. One to 42 were at Howdon, Jesmond Dene, Seghill and Walbottle.



Two species not normally at ground level

Cragside Estate.

Left: a Jackdaw and right: a Goldcrest, both by by Tim Dean

**Rook** *Corvus frugilegus*

Just two reports of 50+ attending a rookery at Widdrington on 7th (MJC) and present at Seghill on 8th.

**Carrion Crow** *Corvus corone*

A large count of 136 at Swallow Pond on 4th (JPD), 23 at Beacon Hill (Cramlington) on 1st (DM) with six at Elswick (R.Tyne) on 3rd, at Jesmond Dene on 23rd and two at Walbottle on 9th.

**Raven** *Corvus corax*

Ten were at Plenmeller Common on 7th (PRM), five flew west at Grindon Lough on 21st (EC/JSB) with three there on 17th, four at Doddington on 18th (JD), two at Great Wanney Crag, Holburn Village, Cragside (Rothbury) and nest building at a confidential site in the southwest. Singles were at Whiteadder Water (Berwick), Haughton Strother GP, Rothbury and Thrunton Woods.

**Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus*

Three was the peak count at Grindon Lough on 7th (PRM), Backworth on 11th (CGK), Valley Park (Cramlington) on 22nd (DM) and Swallow Pond (Wallsend) on 24th (CDH). All other reports were singles at Byker, Dam Dykes (Cramlington), Jesmond Dene, Newburn and Walbottle.



**Blue Tit** *Cyanistes caeruleus*

At Prestwick Carr 15 were found on 1st (PCF), seven the peak count in an Old Hartley garden during the month (RJP), four at Jesmond Dene on 16th (MJCo) and three in the observer's garden at Walbottle on 2nd (KR/LR).

A Blue Tit by Tim Dean

**Great Tit** *Parus major*

Six were at Jesmond Dene on 1st (MJCo), three the highest monthly count in the observer's garden at Walbottle on 9th (KR/LR) with a single male singing at County Hall (Morpeth) on 10th (MJC).

**Coal Tit** *Periparus ater*

More than ten were found at East Chevington NR / Druridge Bay CP on 4th (MSH), six regularly attended garden feeders at Tynemouth during the month (CB), four in an Old Hartley garden (RJP) and at Jesmond Dene on 1st (MJCo) with one to two at Holywell Dene and Walbottle.

**Willow Tit** *Poecile montanus*

Three were at Prestwick Carr on 17th and 18th (PCF) with two regularly attending feeders there during the month (TRD/JD).

Two visited an Old Hartley garden regularly during the month (RJP) and two were trapped and ringed at Eschott on 18th (MSH). Singles were regularly at Big Waters and Linden Hall (Longhorsley) and also at Beacon Lane (Cramlington), Branton GP, Warkworth Lane (Ellington), Airy Holm Reservoir (Shotley Field) and Ulgham.

Two 'cousins'

Top: a Willow Tit in Brier Dene by Jack Bucknall and below: a Marsh Tit at Wallington by Chris Barlow

**Marsh Tit** *Poecile palustris*

Peaks of four at Scotch Gill Woods (Morpeth) on 21st (MJC), three at Thrum Mill (Rothbury) on 9th (TRD/JD), two at Hedgeley on 15th (IBDa/KDa) with singles also at Longhorsley and Morpeth.





**Bearded Tit** *Panurus biarmicus*

The single male at East Chevington was heard at North Pool on 24th (NFO).

**Skylark** *Alauda arvensis*

Well reported as birds began to sing and display, the highest count being 30+ at Brier Dene Farm (Whitley Bay) on 24th (MSH), ten at Whitelea / Beacon Lane (Cramlington) on 22nd (DM), eight at Haughton Strother GP (Humshaugh) on 10th (MR), six+ at Weetslade Colliery CP on 16th (CGK/PS) with four over Dinnington, Grindon Lough and Woodhorn Flashes. One to three were at 14 other widely spread localities.

**Long-tailed Tit** *Aegithalos caudatus*

The largest gatherings were 12 at Kirkley Hall on 3rd (IK) followed by up to eight in an Old Hartley garden throughout the month. Four to five were reported from Holywell Dene, Newburn, Southfield Green (Cramlington) and Tynemouth and one to three from a further six localities.

A Long-tailed Tit competes with Blue Tits  
Cragside Estate  
by Tim Dean

**Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita*

Two singles were reported: at Lower Ouseburn (Byker) on 27th (DM) and at Warkworth on 21st (NNBC).

A late report from January concerned a single in a Seghill garden on 20th (IF).

**Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*

Five individuals were reported: a male at East Ord on 16th (MHu), a female in a Jesmond Dene garden on 28th (MPF), a male in a Walbottle garden on 9th (KR/LR), a female noted at least three times in a Whitley Bay garden (LJM) and a male in another Whitley Bay garden on 3rd (JBu).

A male Blackcap  
Whitley Bay  
by Jack Bucknall

**Lesser Whitethroat** *Sylvia curruca*

The bird found last month in a Tynemouth garden remained throughout the month (CB *et al.*). DNA results confirmed its identity as *Ssp S.c.blythi* from Siberia (east of the Ob and Irtysh Rivers - BWP).

The *blythi* Lesser Whitethroat in a Tynemouth garden  
by Jonathan Farooqi on 22nd February

**Nuthatch** *Sitta europaea*

Three were in Jesmond Dene on 16th and two at Haughton Strother GP (Humshaugh) on 14th. Singles were also noted at Arcot Pond, Cragside, in a Rothbury garden, at Seaton Delaval Hall and at Wark (North Tyne).

**Treecreeper** *Certhia familiaris*

Singles were noted at Cragside, Leazes Park, Longhirst, Thrum Mill (Rothbury), Ulgham Lane, Valley Park (Cramlington) and Wark (North Tyne).

**Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes*

One to three were reported from Holywell Dene, Jesmond Dene and Kenton. Display was noted at the latter, a garden site, on 7th (MRS).





**Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*

Flocks of 2,000 were reported from Cresswell Pond on 19th (IRD) and Ellington on 22nd (PCF) and 1,500 at Druridge Pools on 27th (STH/IFo). Elsewhere 500 flew S over Prestwick Carr on the evening of 16th and 100-200 were noted at Blyth, Gosforth and St Mary's Island.

**Dipper** *Cinclus cinclus*

Two were reported from Holywell Dene, Ponteland, Ridley Stokoe (North Tyne) and Rothbury, while singles were noted elsewhere at Aydon (Corbridge), Bywell Bridge, Deadwater Burn (Kielder), Fulbeck (Morpeth), Hartford Bridge (Bedlington), Harthope Valley, Thrum Mill (Rothbury) and Wallington.



A pair of Dippers on the river Pont, Ponteland  
12th February by Peter Fletcher

**Blackbird** *Turdus merula*

The highest count was 21 at Prestwick Carr on 1st (PCF), while up to 15 were noted in a Walbottle garden (KR/LR) and seven in a Holywell Dene garden during the month. A male was in song at County Hall (Morpeth) by 19th and a female was nest building at Northburn (Cramlington) on 28th.



A Blackbird at Rothbury by Tim Dean

**Fieldfare** *Turdus pilaris*

Larger gatherings included a total of 300 on the Kingswood Burn (Allen Valley) on 21st (EC/JSB), 290 near Ridley Stokoe (North Tyne) on 25th (EC/JSB) and 200 at Grindon Lough on 2nd (PRM). Flocks of 100 were noted near Highmoor on 15th and at Fontburn Reservoir on 3rd; 75 were at Backworth on 22nd and 35-50 at Allerdean, Branton, Derwent Reservoir, Felton, Low Cocklaw (Berwick), Middleton, Mindrum, Prestwick Carr and Shankhouse (Cramlington). A light influx, probably from the mainland, involved around 20 at Holy Island from 2nd-6th.



**Song Thrush** *Turdus philomelos*

This early songster was in full voice throughout the month, with up to four in song at Gosforth Park (GB), three at Bywell and two at Aydon (Corbridge). Elsewhere three were at Jesmond Dene, two at Tynemouth all month, two at Howdon and singles at Kenton Bank Foot, Prestwick Carr, QEII CP, Stamfordham and Woodhorn Flashes.

**Redwing** *Turdus iliacus*

Typically small numbers were noted for this time of year. The largest gathering was 58-60 at Prestwick Carr on 8th and 21st (PCF/IK); 38 were at Haughton Strother GP (Humshaugh) on 14th, 35 at Backworth on 22nd and 30+ at Rising Sun CP (Wallsend) on 11th. Elsewhere 12-25 were reported from Jesmond, Jesmond Dene, Ridley Stokoe (North Tyne) and Whitelea (Cramlington).

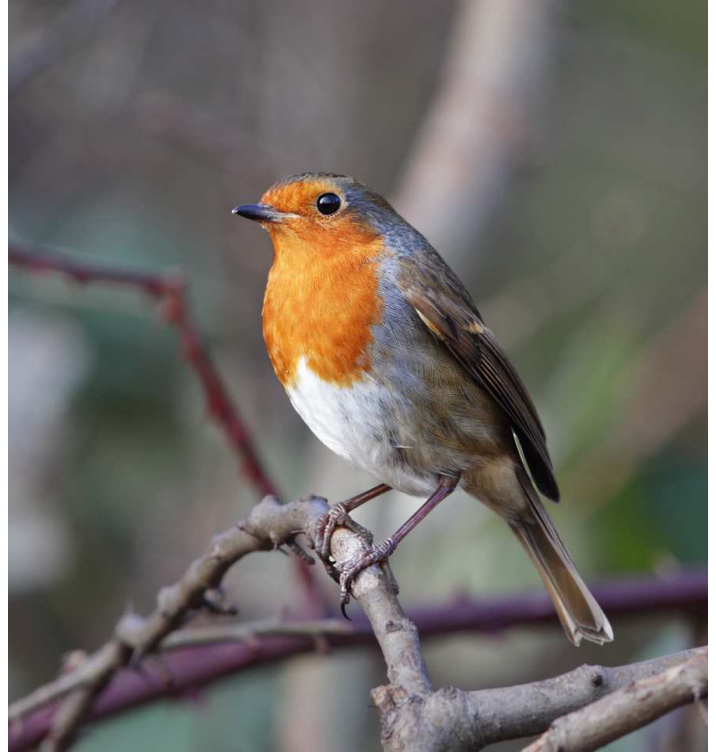
**Mistle Thrush** *Turdus viscivorus*

One to three were reported from Dam Dykes (Cramlington), Jesmond Dene, Newbiggin, Prestwick Carr and Tweedmouth.

**Robin** *Erithacus rubecula*

Five were reported from Jesmond Dene on 9th (MJCo) and two in a Walbottle garden on 2nd.

A Robin at Howdon wetland  
by Colin Bradshaw

**Stonechat** *Saxicola rubicola*

Four were reported from Warkworth dunes on 26th (JPD). Pairs were noted on the coast at Alnmouth, Cheswick, Cocklawburn, Cresswell Pond, Druridge Pools, East Chevington, Holy Island (Sandon Bay), Seahouses and Stag Rocks (Bamburgh), while singles were at Cresswell, Holy Island (Chare Ends-female), Old Hartley, St Mary's (female) and St Mary's Wetland (male). Inland, two birds were at Alnwick Moor on 2nd, a pair at Prestwick Carr on 1st and two at Holywell Pond on 19th. Late records from January involved two at Bamburgh on 27th and one at Annstead on 15th.

**Dunnock** *Prunella modularis*

One was singing at Druridge Bay CP on 10th and two were at Heaton Park Bowling Green on 23rd.

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*

Ten was the peak count in a Walbottle garden on 2nd (KR/LR)

**Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus*

52 were at Hauxley on 1st (ASJ), 40+ attended the Big Waters feeding station on 6th (SPP) and ca.45 were at Bywell Home Farm on 24th (EC). 15-25 were at Cresswell Pond, Hemscott Hill links, Holywell Grange and Brier Dene Home Farm during the month. 10-14 at Druridge links, Hauxley and in a Walbottle garden. One to eight were reported from a further ten widespread locations.

A Tree Sparrow at a Hauxley NR feeder  
26th February by Tim Dean

**Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*

Two were at Holywell Dene on 2nd, Jesmond Dene on 9th and North Shields town centre on 17th. Singles were recorded at Byker, Linden Hall, Newburn, Newcastle city centre and Thrum Mill (Rothbury).

**Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla alba*

Prestwick Carr held 35 on 1st (PCF) declining to 11 by 19th (GB). The only other records were of one at Jesmond on 6th that appeared to be entangled with twine and two in Exhibition Park on 24th.

**Meadow Pipit** *Anthus pratensis*

17 were at Prestwick Carr on 8th (PCF). 18 were noted near the pool and resting in dead trees at West Hartford on 25th (STH) and five were near Woodhorn Flash (AT). One flew N at Southfield Green (Cramlington) on 16th and one was at Arcot Pond on 16th.



**Rock Pipit** *Anthus petrosus*

Five were at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 5th and two remained on 26th (AT). One was singing at The Heugh (Holy Island) on 28th and another was feeding on a muddy track at the Straight Lonnen that day (IK).



A Rock Pipit at Stag Rocks by Colin Bradshaw

**Brambling** *Fringilla montifringilla*

60 at Grindon Lough on 2nd was the largest flock recorded in the month (PRM); 20+ at nearby Grindon Hill on 11th were presumably part of this flock (EC/JSB). 30 were attending feeders at Wallington Hall on 7th (JMA) and 14+ on feeders at Featherstone Park Station on 22nd. 12 in Corbridge garden on 28th was the only other count to reach double figures. One to nine were at eight other locations.



A male Brambling at Wallington by Chris Barlow

**Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs*

30+ were on links at Hemscott Hill on 14th (MSH). 12-14 were in gardens at Brunswick Green and Walbottle during the month.



A pair of Chaffinches at Howdon Wetlands by Colin Bradshaw

**Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

10 at Swallow Pond on 2nd was the largest group recorded in the month, with at least one singing (JPD). Seven were at Longhorsley on 11th (AB/LB). Four were at Beacon Hill (Cramlington) on 2nd (STH). Counts of three came from Arcot Pond, Holywell Dene, Howdon and Valley Park (Cramlington).



A female Bullfinch at  
Howdon Wetlands  
by Colin Bradshaw

**Greenfinch** *Carduelis chloris*

A Walbottle garden attracted the largest gathering with 14 on 9th (KR/LR). Nine were at Lynemouth on 10th. One to four were at Holywell Dene, Jesmond Dene and Longhirst Station during the month.



Male and female Greenfinches  
Howdon wetlands by Colin Bradshaw

**Linnet** *Linaria cannabina*

70 at Stag Rocks during the month (*per* NNBC) was the peak count in the north of the recording area and 60 at Swallow Pond on 22nd (JPD) the southern high. 50+ were at Widdrington Moor Lake on 14th (MSH). The only other report was of two at Tynemouth on 26th.



**Twite** *Carduelis flavirostris*

The favoured dunes in Druridge Bay between Cresswell and Druridge Pool again produced a variety of counts ranging from 45 on 8th to 87 on 22nd (NFO/MSH/CGK/GPK)). In the north 46 were at Scremerston Station on 12th and 26 at Cocklawburn the same day (MHu).

**Lesser Redpoll** *Acanthis cabaret*

Feeders at the north pool on East Chevington NWT attracted 20+ on 4th, 'commuting' from Druridge Bay CP (MSH); 15 were still present on 11th and 11 on 24th. Elsewhere five were in Rothbury throughout, two on Longhorsley Moor and singles at Howdon and Stonelaw (Cramlington).



A Lesser Redpoll at Chevington on 16th February by Jonathan Farooqi

**Common Crossbill** *Loxia curvirostris*

Ca.10 were at Kielder Castle on 9th and 10 flew W at Ridsdale on 19th. Two females were around the Lewis Burn (Kielder) on 27th (all MD).

**Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*

64 visited feeders at East Ord (Berwick) on 7th (MHu). 60+ were in a roost at the Village Hotel (Cobalt Business Park, North Shields) on 2nd, declining to 35 by 27th (CGK). 40+ were at Hemscott Hill links on 14th. 11-20 were at Beacon Hill (Cramlington), Hazlerigg and Walbottle.

**Siskin** *Spinus spinus*

20 at Thrum Mill (Rothbury) was the peak count during the month (TRD/JD). 18 were at Lucker on 8th (per NNBC). Ten were at Yearle throughout (DGB) and Alnwick on 6th. One to eight were at eight other locations.



A cock Siskin at Howdon Wetlands by Colin Bradshaw

**Snow Bunting** *Plectrophenax nivalis*

22 were 1km south of the castle at Bamburgh on 4th (JSB/EC) and 25 at Ross Back Sands on 16th (IBDa/KDa). Elsewhere 20 were at The Snook (Holy Island) on 2nd and three at Blyth on 1st increased to 11 by 28th. Four flew N at Seaton Sluice Watchtower on 13th and two were at Spittal on 18th.

**Yellowhammer** *Emberiza citrinella*

50 were at Elwick on 6th (TRD/JD) and Warton on 7th (JD) but the largest flock in the month was 60 at Easington on 9th (SW). 20-22 were at Aydon Castle on 11th, Bywell Home Farm on 24th, Cresswell Pond on 5th and much more unusually at Woodhorn on 7th. 10-13 were at Airy Holm Reservoir and Whitelea/Beacon Hill. One to eight were in eight other locations including two in song at Aydon on 17th and another singing at Beacon Hill (Cramlington) on 28th.



A Yellowhammer at Wharton by Janet Dean on 7th February

**Reed Bunting** *Emberiza Schoeniclus*

Ca.30 at Bywell Home Farm on 24th was the only gathering to reach double figures in the month (EC). Eight were at Prestwick Carr on 8th and six at Cheswick on 18th. One to five were recorded at 11 widespread locations including a male singing at Arcot Lane on 22nd.



Reed Buntings

Left: at Druridge Bay CP by Colin Bradshaw and right: at St. Mary's by Alan Jack



## ESCAPES, HYBRIDS AND BIRDS OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN

### Escapes

#### Lesser White-fronted Goose *Anser erythropus*

The adult was again seen, this time at Hauxley on 17th and 27th (HRS/STH/IFo). It is still thought to be an escape rather than of wild origin.

#### Eagle Owl *Bubo bubo*

The long-staying escapee was again heard throughout the month in gardens along Burnham Avenue in Walker (SPP).

### Hybrids

#### Canada Goose x Greylag Goose *Branta canadensis* x *Anser anser*

A hybrid was noted at Killingworth Lake again on 21st and 27th (IF / LJM).

#### Tufted Duck x Pochard *Aythya fuligula* x *Aythya ferrina*

Single hybrids were located at Howdon wetland on 2nd (CB) and Killingworth Lake on 27th (IF).



A Muscovy Duck at Druridge Bay CP by Tim Dean

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Bamburgh Ringing Station, Berwick Wildlife Group, Hauxley Ringing Station, North Northumberland Bird Club, Seaton Sluice Watch Tower.

### Apologies for any accidental omissions

### BULLETIN COMPILATION AND PRODUCTION

This bulletin was compiled by Graeme Bowman (Mute Swan to Ruddy Duck), Lindsay McDougall (Red Grouse to Black-necked Grebe), Trevor Blake (Honey-buzzard to Crane), Steve Holliday (Avocet to Godwit) Ian Forsyth (Turnstone to Skua), Eddie Crabtree (Puffin to Great Black-backed Gull), Tim Dean (Escapes, Hybrids and Unknown Origin, List of Contributors, Highlights), Peter Fletcher (Feral Pigeon to Red-rumped Swallow), Mike Richardson (Cetti's Warbler to Pied Flycatcher), Alan Tilmouth (Dunnock to Corn Bunting), Dan Turner (WeBS Coastal Counts) and Steve Holliday (WeBS Inland Counts).

Thanks to David Sanders of NNBC for providing data.

Proof reading was by Mike Smith.

Edited by Steve Barrett [NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com](mailto:NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com)

Mail distribution by Paul Stewart.

### RECORD SUBMISSION

Please e-mail Dick Myatt at [dick@dickmyatt.co.uk](mailto:dick@dickmyatt.co.uk) for a copy of the standard spreadsheet and other details.

Location names and grid references: The use of standard location names and the inclusion of grid references greatly inc

reases the value of records in subsequent analyses. A 1km square grid reference is the ideal e.g. NY8067 for Grindon Lough, but 2km square references (tetrads) are also acceptable e.g. NY86D in this case. A list of localities and their tetrad grid references (tetrad/Locality List) can be downloaded from the 'Resources & Downloads' section of the Club website at <http://www.ntbc.org.uk> – the use of these names, wherever possible, would be highly appreciated.

**Could club members ensure they to submit records direct to NTBC rather than just Birdtrack. There may be an assumption by some members this happens automatically. We do not want to miss records.**

## ELECTRONIC RECORDS

We are currently in the process of moving the monthly management of electronic records from Dick Myatt who has managed and developed the system since 2006 to myself (Alan Tilmouth).

It has become clear that there are many differences in the way individuals use the NTBC record spreadsheet and Dick via his professional experience has developed methodology and checks into the record management process to help deal with these. However it is also clear that a significant amount of time within the record management process each month is spent identifying and dealing with errors, erroneous omissions/inclusions and variations contained within individual record submissions.

It is our intention to review and re-issue the Guidelines to Submitting records to all club members, hopefully in the not too distant future, but it would be greatly appreciated in the meantime if all members submitting electronically could focus on a few areas that would greatly reduce the time required to process records.

## Dates

Please check dates once you have completed your data entry to remove any keying errors e.g. 2004 or 2024.

## Site names

Please use sites that are available on OS 1:50000 maps Fine detail in relation to the site e.g. specific buildings, playing fields or the word 'roost' should be provided in the comments and not as part of a site name.

## Count

Please do not enter anything but a number in this column. Anything else related to the count should be in count details or comments (e.g. +, circa, male, pair, etc).

## General

Many observers are leaving partially completed lines of data at the end of their spreadsheets, these may contain observer names or locations or even dates but no associated records and have presumably been created by cutting and pasting to save time as records are added. Please remove these, it takes a few seconds to delete the 50 rows after your last record prior to saving the sheet. Unfortunately finding and removing these pockets of non-records when multiplied by 10 or 20 observers and amalgamated is a time-consuming task.

Thank you in advance for your co-operation which will hopefully ensure we continue to have a superb database preserved for both current and future club members.

Alan Tilmouth

## PHOTOGRAPHS AND ILLUSTRATIONS

Please keep submitting your articles, photographs, sketches and illustrations for the bulletin. Thanks again to those who have supplied the excellent photographs. Please send to Steve Barrett at [NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com](mailto:NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com)

It is preferable if you re-size your photos before sending and a suggested size is 640 x 480 pixels. Please ensure you include the following information with your submissions: name, species, date taken, locality. Photographs will not be used elsewhere without the photographer's permission.

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The Club website is an excellent resource for all interested in birds in the north-east. There are numerous interesting sections, including a photograph gallery, site information and trip reports together with extensive reference information for birding in our area. Please submit any new content for the website to the main club email address at [ntbcorg@gmail.com](mailto:ntbcorg@gmail.com)

**NTBC SIGHTINGS PAGE**

The Sightings Page contains current sightings by members. Access is from the NTBC website.

Members need to submit a request to be added to the website, specifying the email address they wish to post from before they can submit sightings to [ntbcorg@gmail.com](mailto:ntbcorg@gmail.com)

**SWIFTS****WANTED: Swift enthusiasts with a good knowledge of local swift nesting sites**

RSPB is keen to hear from local swift groups that have good local knowledge of the locations of swift nesting sites in towns or cities. A new study starting in 2014 is hoping to test whether point counts of low flying swifts can provide a useful measure of the local abundance of nesting swifts. The RSPB is keen to hear from swift enthusiasts who have a good (recent) knowledge of the distribution of swift nesting sites either for a single colony or across a wider built-up area (ideally a district within a town, city or large village). The RSPB is hoping that volunteers can help conduct evening point counts of low flying swifts between mid May and mid July 2014.

If you think you have good local knowledge of the distribution of nesting swifts then please contact Will Peach on the following email address: [will.peach@rspb.org.uk](mailto:will.peach@rspb.org.uk)

**BIRDS IN NORTHUMBRIA**

I have had some volunteers carry out a stock take of boxes of books in the Natural History Society cupboards and as a result have discovered around 100 BINs dating back to 1972 which are surplus to requirements (see list below). I would like to try and sell these and thought I should let the Bird Club know first in case there were any that you wanted to buy back - or that Bird Club members may like?

Any pre1990 would be £5ea and any post 1990 £2.50ea. If buyers want them mailed out then P&P would be £3. Contact NHSN Society office to buy 0191 208 2790 or [nhsn@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:nhsn@ncl.ac.uk)

1972 1	1995 24
1974 1	1996 1
1975 1	1997 1
1976 3	1998 1
1977 2	2000 4
1982 6	2001 2
1983 3	2002 14
1988 10	2003 6
1989 3	2004 17
1992 1	2005 1

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A little Gull at Stag Rocks

by Jonathan Farooqi







# Northumberland and Tyneside Bird Club

Registered Charity No. 517641

<http://www.ntbc.org.uk/>

Bulletin 2014 No 3

MONTHLY SUMMARY – MARCH

4th May 2014



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## CLASSIFIED LIST HIGHLIGHTS

Bewick's Swan

Whooper Swan

Tundra Bean Goose

Greenland White-fronted Goose

Garganey

Green-winged Teal

Bittern

Shoveler

Long-tailed Duck

Black-throated Diver

Manx Shearwater

Whimbrel

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker

Bearded Tit

Siberian Lesser Whitethroat

Mealy Redpoll

Single with Whoopers at Horncliffe on 6th.

Peak count of 184 at Horncliffe on 2nd.

Three at Whittle Dene still and two at Hauxley.

Two at Grindon Lough until 24th.

Two males at Buston Links on 31st.

Single male at Big Waters and later at Howdon wetland

Single at Gosforth Park all month & one at Warkworth Lane on 15th.

High count of 42 at Druridge Pools on 31st, the most since 2007.

Peak count of 55 at Stag Rocks, Bamburgh on 4th.

Popular bird at East Chevington for most of month.

Early migrant on 27th at Newbiggin

Early migrant on 5th at Ellington

One at Wark on 30th, a sign that species still survives in county

The wintering male was at East Chevington from 9th - 11th and on 25th.

The Tynemouth individual (*blythi* ssp) was seen through to 24th.

Two at East Chevington

## COMMITTEE NEWS

### FIELD TRIPS

The next field trip is to RSPB **Geltsdale – 25th May 2014** with Steve Westerberg

Any members who are interested in any of the above field trip please email Steve Anderson [seaswan@btinternet.com](mailto:seaswan@btinternet.com)

## INDOOR MEETINGS

The winter season will start on September 11th.



A Snow Bunting has a stretch at Blyth Harbour by Jack Bucknall



## CLASSIFIED LIST

The following account consists of unchecked reports. The species/subspecies marked \* require descriptions.

A complete list of all sightings that need notes is included in the NTBC website [www.ntbc.org.uk](http://www.ntbc.org.uk) under the County Records Committee section and in Birds in Northumbria 2012 page 236.

The Inland and Coastal Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) tables are at the rear of the bulletin. These contain counts additional to those in the Classified List.

### Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

Largest concentrations were 117 at QEII CP Lake on 23rd (CDH), 57 at Killingworth Lake on 12th (LJM), 54 at the Tweed Estuary on 14th (MHu), and 12-14 at East Chevington and Hartburn Reservoir. Five to nine were also at Big Waters, the Blyth Estuary, Gosforth Park NR, Greenlee Lough, Haughton Strother GP, Horncliffe, Howdon, Newcastle Leazes Park, and Rayburn and Rothley Lakes, while one to four were at about 15 further sites. A pair had completed a nest at Holy Island by 28th (IK).

### Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus*

One was at Loanend, Horncliffe on 6th (MHu).

### Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

Active passage was conspicuous; a total of 129, in five groups, flew N at St Mary's on 8th (ASJ) when 35 moved N at Weetslade Colliery CP (CGK/AJ), a total of 112 flew N at Seaton Sluice on three dates between 2nd-23rd (SSWT), including 67 (45, 15 and seven) on 10th, 70 moved N at Cullercoats on 23rd (ASJ), 42 N at Blyth Harbour on 11th (AA), 40 N at Low Newton (TRD/JD) with 40 on the sea at Bamburgh on 13th (DGB), 11 NW at Wark on 25th (PRM), and four N at Berwick and Ellington. A flock of 174 at Loanend, Horncliffe on 2nd consisted of 138 adults and 36 immature birds (MHu), 100 were at Beal on 9th (SR/AH), 76 at Bakethin Reservoir on 24th (GR per MD), 36 at Derwent Reservoir on 6th (IFo), 31 at Ellington on 2nd (IRD), and 20-29 at Branton GP, Cresswell Pond and Whittle Dene Reservoirs. Counts of 12-17 came from Airy Holm and Hartburn Reservoirs, Grindon Lough, Haughton Strother GP, Kielder Water, Maiden's Hall Lake and West Chevington, and two to eight from Bothal and Swallow Ponds, and QEII CP and Rayburn Lakes.

### Goose (sp.)

A large hybrid/domesticated goose species was at Hauxley Reserve regularly between 9th-29th (CDB/IF/PCF *et al.*). A bird resembling a Lesser White-fronted Goose *Anser erythropus* was at Cresswell Pond on 29th (TF/JFa).

### Bean Goose *Anser fabalis*

All records were of 'Tundra' *rossicus* race birds; three were at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 1st-2nd (AA/JPD/MPF/AS) and 31st (SR), and two at Hauxley Reserve on 10th (IF), with one there on 22nd (CDB). One at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 24th appeared injured, with blood covering its under-tail (SR).

Two images by Chris Barlow

Top a Tundra Bean Goose at Hauxley and bottom the leucistic Pink-foot at Bell's Farm

### Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Northbound birds involved 250-300 at the Tyne Estuary on 5th (SPP), 170 at Cocklawburn on 11th (MHu), 67 at Tynemouth on 23rd (CB), 60 at Swallow Pond on 11th (JPD), 46 (with one Barnacle Goose) at Beadnell on 4th (SW), and 12-28 at New Water Haugh and Spittal Bay, but the only report from Seaton Sluice was of six on 10th (SSWT). A flock of 70 moved NW at Killingworth Lake on 7th (IF) and 150 flew SW at Redheugh on 5th (AJR). The largest concentrations involved 1,500 at Bradford (near Lucker) on 1st (MSH), 800 at Hauxley Reserve on 10th (IF) and 22nd (PCF), about 750 at Doddington on 16th (DGB), 700 at West Stobswood Pool on 6th (MSH), 556-600 at Gloucester Farm, Blyth (MSH) and Druridge (TRD/JD), 450 at Cresswell Pond on 5th (IRD), 84 at Bothal Pond, and 20 at Budle Bay. A leucistic bird was noted at Druridge Bay on 1st (CDB).





**White-fronted Goose** *Anser albifrons*

Eurasian *albifrons* race birds involved three at Low Newton scrape on 13th (TRD/JD), two at Bradford (near Lucker) on 3rd (MSH), and one at Hauxley Reserve on 18th (MSH) and 23rd (CDB). Two adults of the Greenland *flavirostris* race were at Grindon Lough between 20th-24th (SJH/PRM). Un-raced birds involved six at Bradford Kaims on 11th (*per* NNBC) and three at Widdrington Steads on 26th (AA/MH).

A White-front  
at Hauxley  
by Chris Barlow

**Greylag Goose** *Anser anser*

800 at Bradford Kaims on 11th (*per* NNBC) and 500 at Hauxley Reserve on 10th (IF) were the largest counts, followed by 377 at Harper's Haugh (Budle Bay) on 3rd (MSH), 320 at Backworth on 14th (CGK/GPK), 180-200 at Holywell Pond on 24th (SPP), and 109 at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 31st (SR). Counts of 67-88 came from East Chevington, Grindon Lough and Linton Ponds, 40-48 from Holywell Dene and Plenmeller Common, and three to 16 at 11 further sites.

A Grey lag and a Pink-footed Goose  
Hedgeley  
by Tim Dean on 18th March

**Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis*

Peak counts were 234 at Bothal Pond on 3rd (TF/JFa), 218 at Grindon Lough on 6th (SJH), 100 at Hauxley Reserve on 10th (IF), 94 at Derwent Reservoir on 9th (IFo), 70 at Rayburn Lake on 16th (DM *et al.*), and 32-48 at Linton Ponds, Newcastle Leazes Park and Plenmeller Common. Ten to 25 were also at Arcot and Swallow Ponds, Bywell Haughs, Gosforth Park NR, Hartburn Reservoir, Kielder Water, QEII CP and Rothley Lakes, Prestwick Carr and West Ord, and two to nine at Big Waters, Castle Island, Spartylea, Woodhorn Flashes and Woolsington Ponds.

**Barnacle Goose** *Branta leucopsis*

One flew N, with Pink-footed Geese, at Beadnell on 4th (SW). Budle Bay held 300 on 3rd (JPL) and 13th (DGB), and 131-260 on 1st and 9th (MSH/CPK), and 200 circled over East Chevington on 10th (TRD/JD). One to three were at East Chevington (PRM), Hauxley Reserve (IFo/PCF *et al.*), Longbridge End, Lindisfarne NNR (IK) and West Stobswold Pool (MSH).

**Brent Goose** *Branta bernicla*

Pale-bellied *hrota* race birds involved peaks of 428 at Harper's Haugh (Budle Bay) on 3rd (MSH) and three there on 11th (TRD/JD), 220 at Fenham Flats on 1st (AJR) and 100 there on 11th (TRD/JD), 220 at Holy Island harbour on 8th (TD), and one at Druridge. Dark-bellied *bernicla* race birds involved about 120 at the Ouze, Holy Island at the beginning of the month and dropping to 36-38 by the end (IK), 20 at Holy Island harbour on 8th (TD), nine at Cresswell Pond on 2nd (ASH), and singles at Cresswell links and Lynemouth flash. Records of un-raced birds were 1,000 at Budle Bay on 3rd (JPL) and 40 at Fenham Flats on 1st (JBu).

**Egyptian Goose** *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

One was at Hauxley Reserve on 10th (JA/TRD/JD/IF) and East Chevington on 11th (ADMc).

**Shelduck** *Tadorna tadorna*

Four flew N and three S at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT). Fenham Flats held 295 on 17th (*per* NNBC), 92 were at the Blyth Estuary on 13th and 29th (LJM), and ten to 16 at Cresswell Pond (TB), Castle Island (DM *et al.*), Elswick (DM), Howdon (CB) and Warkworth Lane Ponds (TB). Six to seven visited Druridge Pools and Hauxley Reserve, and one to three were at Backworth and Bothal Ponds, Druridge and Monks' House Pools, Longhirst Flash, Lynemouth and Woodhorn Flashes, St Mary's Wetland, the Tweed Estuary and West Stobswold Pool. Further inland, Grindon Lough attracted a peak of 11 on 14th (SJH), and one to two were at Branton GP, Houghton Strother GP and Kielder Water.



**Mandarin** *Aix galericulata*

Two pairs were at Bakethin Reservoir on 23rd (TRD/JD) and a single pair was noted there on 13th (JPD). Three (two drakes) were at Tarsset Burn on 16th (SW), a pair flew round Tarsset on 28th (MD), a drake was at Ridley Stokoe on 12th (PRM) and a duck at Byrness on 23rd (TRD/JD).

**Wigeon** *Anas penelope*

Peak counts were largely in the opening ten days; 300 were at Beadnell Bay on 1st (IBDa/KDa/JPL), 300 at Hoppen Kiln on 9th (GPK), 221 at Big Waters on 6th (SPP per GB) falling to 46 by 16th (GB), 185 at Bothal Pond on 1st (TF/JFa) dropping to 68 by 16th (TD), 170 at Cresswell Pond on 6th (IF) falling to 50 by 28th (PRM), and 107-129 at Derwent and Whittle Dene Reservoirs, Grindon Lough and Hauxley Reserve. Counts of 40-55 came from Bradford Kaims, Druridge Pools, Maiden's Hall Lake (West Chevington) and Wallington, and 12-16 from Gosforth Park NR and Hazlerigg.

**Gadwall** *Anas strepera*

Peak counts were 34 at Woodhorn Flashes on 14th (AT), 22 at Big Waters on 16th (GB), 22 at East Chevington on 16th (DM et al.), 21 at Cresswell Pond on 28th (PRM), 20 at Bothal Pond on 1st (TF/JFa), 18 at the Blyth Estuary on 13th (LJM), and 11 at Hauxley Reserve on 16th (HRS). Counts of five to eight came from Castle Island, Druridge Pools, St Mary's Wetland, and Swallow and Warkworth Lane Ponds, three to four were at Branton GP, Grindon Lough, Linton Ponds, and QEII CP Lake, and one to two at Arcot and Backworth Ponds, Gosforth Park NR and Longhirst Flash. Two at Holy Island on 9th (SR/AH) and at the 'rocket field' pools on 15th (IK) were unusual for that locality.

**Teal** *Anas crecca*

Largest concentrations were 240 at Hoppen Kiln on 9th (GPK), 170 at Howdon on 7th (CB), 125 at Grindon Lough on 12th (PRM), 121 at the Blyth Estuary on 13th (LJM), about 120 Druridge Pools on 20th (PRM), 110-120 at Holy Island 'rocket field' pool early in the month dropping to about 40 by the end (IK), 80-96 at Bothal Pond (TD) and Whittle Dene Reservoirs (SR), and 50-60 at Big Waters, East Chevington, and West Hartford. Groups of 20-40 were at Arcot, Bothal and Linton Ponds, Colt Crag and Derwent Reservoirs, Elswick, Gosforth Park NR, Lynemouth Flash and Rayburn Lake, and ten to 18 were at Cresswell Pond, Longhirst Flash, Prestwick Carr and West Ord.

**Green-winged Teal** *Anas carolinensis*

A drake, first noted in February 2014, was at Big Waters on 2nd when it displayed briefly with other Teal (GB). It, or another drake, was at Howdon Wetland on 7th (CB) and 11th (JPD/MPF/AS).

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*

Peak counts were 82 at the Tweed Estuary on 14th (MHu), 67 at Newcastle Leazes Park on 17th (DM), 50 at Marden Quarry on 9th (KWY), 40 at QEII CP Lake on 23rd (CDH), and 21-30 at Bothal and Middle Ord Ponds, Byker, Castle Island, Grindon Lough and Longhirst Flash. Ten to 18 were also at Bakethin Reservoir, the *Beehive* Flash (Earsdon), Cresswell Pond, Jesmond Dene, Ponteland and Ridley Stokoe.

**Pintail** *Anas acuta*

Druridge Pools held four (two pairs) on 3rd (TRD/JD), and one to two on several dates between 16th-26th (IFo/JL et al.), a pair was at Cresswell Pond on 25th (IRD) and 31st (TRD/JD), and East Chevington held a pair on 10th (TRD/JD) and a drake on 1st and 5th (TB/IRD). A bird at Grindon Lough on 17th may have been a Pintail x Mallard hybrid (MRS).

**Shoveler** *Anas clypeata*

A drake flew N at Newbiggin on 28th (PRM). Decent numbers were recorded at Druridge Pools, where 15 on 3rd (TRD/JD) increased to 30 by 23rd (IRD) and a peak of 42 (30 drakes) by 31st (TRD/JD). Peak counts elsewhere were 16 (12 drakes) at Swallow Pond on 23rd (JPD), ten at East Chevington on 19th (TRD/JD), five to six at Gosforth Park NR (NHSN), Holywell Pond (SPP) and West Allotment Pond (CGK/PS), and three to four at Killingworth Lake and Warkworth Lane Ponds. One to two were also at Big Waters, Hoppen Kiln and Monks' House Pool.

**Pochard** *Aythya ferina*

Killingworth Lake was the only site to attract double figures, with a peak of 19 on 12th (LJM). Other peak counts were nine at Arcot Pond on 9th (DM) and 11th (LJM), eight at Bothal Pond on 8th (IRD), eight at Swallow Pond on 19th (JPD), and seven at Big Waters on 2nd (GB). Three to four were at East Chevington, Gosforth Park NR and West Allotment Pond, and singles at Bakethin Reservoir, Cresswell Pond, Grindon Lough, Kielder Water and Woodhorn Flashes.

**Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula*

Two flew N at Seaton Sluice on 23rd (SSWT). Greatest counts were 95 at Killingworth Lake on 29th (GB), 54 at QEII CP Lake on 23rd (CDH), 41 at Big Waters on 9th (GB), 30-39 at East Chevington (PRM), Ladyburn Lake (IFo), Newcastle Leazes Park (DM) and Swallow Pond (JPD), 22-28 at Arcot and Bothal Ponds, Woodhorn Flashes, and 12-18 at Airy Holm and Hartburn Reservoirs, Cresswell Pond, Druridge Pools, Grindon Lough, Hauxley Reserve, Linton Ponds and Rayburn Lake. One to nine were at nine further sites and included an oiled or dyed drake at Bakethin Reservoir on 2nd and 23rd (TRD/JD).

**Scaup** *Aythya marila*

Two were at East Chevington on 14th (ADM). One regularly at Big Waters (GB/SPP) occasionally commuted to Killingworth Lake, being noted there on 2nd (CGK/PS) and 16th (IF). Singles were also at Bakethin Reservoir on 2nd (TRD/JD), 12th (PRM) and 13th (JPD/MPF/AS), and Haughton Strother GP on 7th (MR).

**Eider** *Somateria mollissima*

A total of 63 flew N and 48 S at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT). 140 were at Fenham Flats on a very high tide on 1st (AJR), 87 were at the Blyth Estuary on 29th (LJM), 62 at Amble Harbour on 30th (JL), and 43 at Berwick North Shore on 13th (MHu). Counts of 17-22 were noted at Meadow Haven, Newbiggin and North Shields Fish Quay, and two to eight at Snab Point, the Tweed Estuary and Whitley Bay.

**Long-tailed Duck** *Clangula hyemalis*

One flew N at Seaton Sluice on 25th (SSWT). 55 at Stag Rocks on 4th (SW) fell to 11 by 13th (GR), and two by 17th per NNBC), 12-15 were at Holy Island harbour (displaying often) all month (IK), and one to two at Beadnell, Seahouses and the Tweed Estuary between 4th-11th. Three were regularly noted on East Chevington north pool between 1st-30th (TB/JBu *et al.*). A duck was well inland at Derwent Reservoir between 14th-28th (IFo).

**Common Scoter** *Melanitta nigra*

The monthly total at Seaton Sluice was 30 N and 25 S (SSWT), 52 flew N and four S at Snab Point on 20th (PRM), and five flew N and seven S at St Mary's on 9th and 15th (JBu/SPP). A large flock was centred on Stag Rocks, numbering 200-1,000 between 1st-9th (TD/GPK/BRS *et al.*) and peaking at 1,500 (no date; DGB/IBDa/KDa/JDL *et al.*). Numbers elsewhere were much smaller, with 20-28 at Beadnell Bay, Cocklawburn, Newbiggin, and one to 12 at the Blyth Estuary, off East Chevington, Hauxley, Newbiggin and Snab Point. Unusual records concerned a pair well inland at Haughton Strother GP on 30th-31st (MR) and a duck at Druridge Pools on 8th (IRD), 20th (PRM) and 22nd (TD).

**Velvet Scoter** *Melanitta fusca*

At St Mary's, three flew N on 1st (JPD/MPF/AS) and one N on 15th (SPP). Two were off Druridge-East Chevington on 5th (AA/MH) and 20th (ADMc).

**Goldeneye** *Bucephala clangula*

Two flew S at Seaton Sluice on 10th (SSWT). 124 were noted at the Tweed Estuary on 14th (MHu), 56 were at East Chevington on 20th (PRM), 24 at Grindon Lough (PRM), 20 at Bakethin Reservoir (JPD/PRM), and Killingworth Lake (MSH), and ten to 19 at Berwick North Shore, Branton GP, Castle Island, Swallow Pond, West Ord. Six to eight were at Big Waters, Cresswell Pond, Hallington Reservoir and QEII CP Lake, and three to four at Bothal Pond and Charlton. One to two were at seven further sites. Display was noted at Swallow Pond on 21st (CGK).



A drake Red-breasted Merganser gets airborne  
Druridge by Chris Barlow

**Red-breasted Merganser** *Mergus serrator*

Two flew N at Newbiggin on 26th (IFo). Peak counts were 20 at Holy Island on 29th (SRB), 12 (nine drakes) at Cresswell Pond on 20th (PRM), six at Druridge Pools on 29th (PCF), and six at Stag Rocks on 1st (IBDa/KDa), and three to four at Cocklawburn, East Chevington, Fenham Flats and Hauxley Reserve. Singles were at Castle Island, Ladyburn Lake and St Mary's. Three were in full display at St Cuthbert's Island, Holy Island on 29th (IK).



**Goosander** *Mergus merganser*

Five flew N at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT). Largest gatherings were 12 at Killingworth Lake on 12th (LJM), eight at West Ord on 24th (MHu), six at Wark on 22nd (PRM), and three to four at Dilston, Farnley, Melkridge, Mootlaw Quarry, Newburn, QEII CP Lake, Rothbury, Snabdaugh and the Tweed Estuary. One to two were at 23 further sites including, more unusually, two at the Blyth Estuary on 23rd (CGK/GPK/PS) and one at West Hartford on 9th (LJM).

**Red-legged Partridge** *Alectoris rufa*

Eight were in the Keenly (Whitfield) area on 23rd (SJH). Four were foraging for roadside grit at Angerton Lake on 16th (DM/STH/PJA/IFo). Two were at Tarsset Burn on 16th (SW) and singles were at Big Waters on 10th (GB) and in Newcastle Airport Baggage Hall on 3rd (IF)!

**Red Grouse** *Lagopus lagopus*

A number of large counts were received which indicated an abundant population following the mild winter. On 11th 46 were on Acton Moor, 42 on Carrshield Moor, 31 at Paxhill (Allenheads), 22 at Knockburn and eight on Plenmeller Common (SJH). 30 were in Allendale on 13th and 20 were on Simonside on 1st (ASJ). Other peak counts in the North Pennines were 17 on Coanwood Common on 13th, 16 at Sipton Burn and 14 in the Knockburn area both on 24th (SJH). Many were displaying on Acton Fell (Slaley) on 13th (IK) and a single was at Whitefield Hill on 22nd.

**Black Grouse** *Tetrao tetrix*

The peak count of 13 all males was at Swinhope Shield was on 26th (SJH), with up to nine males and two females being seen there on five further dates (SJH/AA/ASH). Elsewhere in the North Pennines ten (three males) were at Paxhill on 17th with six (five males) there on 11th (SJH) and six (five males) were at Meadow Cottage on 25th (JSB/EC). Up to five (three males) were in the Knockburn area during the month and four (all males) at Keenley and Coanwood Common (three males) during the month (SJH). One to three were also noted at Acton Moor, Carrshield Moor and Knockshield.

**Grey Partridge** *Perdix perdix*

Eight (four pairs) were at Swallow Pond on 12th (JPD). Elsewhere one to three were noted at Beal Point, Big Waters, Black Callerton, Brenkley Drift, Cresswell Links, Crooked Oak (Derwent Reservoir), East Chevington North Pool, Ellington, Mill Farm (Tweedmouth), Newbiggin, Prestwick Carr, South Ord, Warkworth Lane and Woodhorn Flashes.

**Pheasant** *Phasianus colchicus*

At Big Waters 16 were present on 10th (GB), 14 were at Hollin Green (Keenley) on 26th (SJH) and 11 at Hauxley NR on 22nd (LJM). Counts of eight (one male) came from a Walbottle garden on 2nd and eight (all females) at Dinnington enjoying horse feed on 18th (PCF). One to two were noted at Eachwick, Hartley West Farm and Valley Park (Cramlington).

**Red-throated Diver** *Gavia stellata*

An average passage month was noted at Seaton Sluice with 16 N and 30 S in 33 hours of sea watching with a maximum day count of nine in 1 hour 30 minutes on 8th (SSWT). At St Mary's Island 13 flew S and five N in 2 hours on 15th (JPD), five flew S on 9th (JBu), three flew S on 2nd and two flew S and one N on 1st (JPD). Peak offshore counts were 18 at Stag Rocks on 4th (SW) with up to 15 noted here on four further dates (SW *et al*) and 16 at Holy Island on 11th (SR). Four were noted off Emmanuel Head (Holy Island) on 10th/21st (*per* NNBC) and at East Chevington on 10th (TRD/JPD). One to three were noted at Beadnell, Cocklawburn, Craster, Meadow Haven (Berwick), Newbiggin, Newton Point and St Mary's Island.

**Black-throated Diver** *Gavia arctica*

The long-staying immature was noted all month at East Chevington North Pool (many observers). One was seen off Holy Island on 10th/11th/21st (NNBC/TRD).

A Black-throated Diver  
East Chevington  
by Tim Dean  
3rd March

**Great Northern Diver** *Gavia immer*

One flew N at Seaton Sluice on 25th (SSWT). The long-staying bird was in Blyth South Harbour on 13th/25th (LJM/CGK/GPK/PS).

**Fulmar** *Fulmarus glacialis*

At Berwick 55 /h flew N on 7th (MHu). The only count of note at Seaton Sluice was 47 S in two hours on 25th (SSWT). At breeding colonies 34 were at Tynemouth Priory on 10th (SPP), 17 nests were noted at Rockcliffe (Whitley Bay) on 2nd (IJ) and 17 were at Hartley cliffs on 2nd (SPP), eight were at Bamburgh GC (TD) and two pairs at Snab Point on 20th (PRM). One to three were noted at Berwick Little Beach, Stag Rocks and flying over Ellington.

**Manx Shearwater** *Puffinus puffinus*

One was seen off Newbiggin on 27th (AT).

**Gannet** *Morus bassanus*

At least 500/h passed Emmanuel Head (Holy Island) on 21st (per NNBC). 380/h flew N at Berwick Pier on 20th (MHu). At Seaton Sluice 119 flew N in 4 hours at Seaton Sluice on 26th (SSWT). Eight were off Berwick on 7th

**Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

No noticeable movement occurred at Seaton Sluice, although during the month five flew N and 13 S in 4 hours on 15th (SSWT). The peak counts were 35 at Blyth Harbour on 28th (STH), 26 at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 31st (SR), 18 at Derwent Reservoir on 13th (IFo) and ten at North Shields on 5th (PRM) and Berwick North Shore on 13th (MHu). One to seven were noted at Bakethin, Big Waters, Castle Island, Cresswell Pond, East Chevington North Pool, Elswick Wharf, Farnley, Grindon Lough, Hauxley NR, Kielder Water, Newburn, Prestwick Carr, Rothley Lakes, Tweed Estuary and Wark.

**\*Continental Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis*

An adult was at Warkworth Weir on 9th (CDB) and a first-winter at Bakethin Reservoir on 12th (PRM).



A splendid study of the Warkworth 'Continental' Cormorant by Chris Barlow

**Shag** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

At Seaton Sluice six flew S and 12 N during the month (SSWT). 12 were at Meadow Haven (Berwick) on 7th and six nearby at Berwick North shore on 13th (MHu). Three were at Newbiggin on 28th (PRM) when an adult and two first winter birds were in Blyth Harbour (STH). One was at Seahouses on 11th (TRD/JD).

**Bittern** *Botaurus stellaris*

One possibly two birds were still at Gosforth Park NR during the month (NHSN). One was at Warkworth Lane on 15th (TB).

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*

Only singles were noted during the month at Fenham Mill (AJR) and Yarrow Slake (Tweed Estuary) (BWG) on 1st, Budle Bay on 9th (GPK), Blyth Estuary on 13th and two subsequent dates (RJP), Fenham Flats on 16th (IBDa), Cresswell Pond on 16th/18th (ASH/IRD) and Caistron on 22nd (JL).

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*

The peak counts were 18 in the Tweed Estuary on 14th (MHu), 11 at Druridge Pools on 16th (JL) and six (three nesting pairs) at Gosforth Park NR during the month (NHSN). Five were at Prestwick Carr on 27th (PCF) and Holy Island on 28th (ADM). One to four were noted at Berwick North Shore, Bywell Haughs, East Chevington, Ellington, Farnley, Grindon Lough, Hauxley NR, Holywell Dene, Horton Grange, Newbiggin, Prudhoe, Shield-on-the-Wall and Tynemouth.



**Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Peak counts were seven at Swallow Pond on 8th/11th (SPP/JPD), six at Gosforth Park NR throughout the month (NHSN), five at Linton Ponds on 23rd (CDH) and four at Woodhorn Flashes on 27th (AT). Numbers at Arcot Pond had increased to three by 21st (LJM/STH). Three were at Bothal Pond on 16th (CGK/PS) and Haughton Strother GP (Humshaugh) on 24th (MR). Pairs were noted at Derwent Reservoir, East Chevington North Pool, Hauxley NR and Holy Island Lough. Singles were at Angerton Lake, Big Waters, Airy Holm Reservoir, Coatenhill Pond (Spartylea), Cresswell Pond, Grindon Lough, Rothley Lake, West Ord and on the River Coquet between Rothbury and Thropton.

**Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus*

The peak count was eight at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 16th (SR). Six (three pairs) were at Derwent Reservoir on 10th and remained there until the end of the month (IFo). The peak count at East Chevington was also six on 20th (PRM) with many observers noting up to five here on 11 further dates. Three were at Bothal Pond on 8th (IRD/TF/JFa) and QEII Lake on 23rd (CDH). Two were at Killingworth Lake on 3rd (MSH), Big Waters on 9th/10th, Bakethin Reservoir on 20th (MD) and Branton GP on 23rd (IBDa/KDa). Singles were at Airy Holm Reservoir (Shotleyfield) and Cresswell Pond.



A Great Crested Grebe  
Druridge Pools  
Alan Jack  
22nd March

**Red-necked Grebe** *Podiceps grisegena*

Two were at Stag Rocks on 1st (TD/BRS/TB) with a single there on 11th (TRD/JD). The long-staying bird remained at East Chevington North Pool all month, starting to acquire summer plumage by the month end (many observers).

**Slavonian Grebe** *Podiceps auritus*

The peak count at Stag Rocks was a minimum of ten on 1st (TD/IBDa/KDa) with one to two seen on two further dates. Six, now in breeding plumage, were still present at the end of the month at Holy Island (IK) and two were noted there off Snipe Point on 11th (SR). Two remained at East Chevington North Pool until at least 12th (Many observers).

**Black-necked Grebe** *Podiceps nigricollis*

An adult in winter plumage was at Snipe Point on 11h (SR). One had returned to a regular breeding location by 18th.

**Red Kite** *Milvus milvus*

Two birds were moving W over Wylam on 8th (RMHa/PMHa) and two birds which were untagged were at Whitfield on 19th (SJH). A single birds was noted at Big waters, Prestwick Carr and Weetslade CP on 2nd (GB/MH/JP *et al*) and other single birds were noted at Low Waskerley on 11th (IFo) and at Prestwick Carr on 19th (*per* PCF).

**Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*

Two birds a male and female were at East Chevington on 27th (ADM<sub>c</sub>) and singles were noted there on several dates (TB/TRD/ADM<sub>c</sub>). Single birds were also seen in the West Chevington/ Felton Lane area on 6th, 18th & 26th (ADM<sub>c</sub>/IF/AA/MH).

**Hen Harrier** *Circus cyaneus*

Three records this month involving sightings of males at two sites and a female at another.

**Goshawk** *Accipiter gentilis*

Two males and a female were noted at one site on 12th (PRM) and pairs were seen at one site on 1st and 2nd (JL/SR/AH) and at another site on 19th (AA/MH). Sightings of single birds came from two sites on 13th (JPD/MPF/AS).

**Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*

At Gosforth Park NR three birds were seen throughout the month (NHSN). Two birds were noted at Gosforth Park on 2nd (MRS), Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 9th, Morpeth on 10th (TB), Kielder on 12th (PRM), Swallow Pond and Warkworth Lane on 23rd (JPD/TB) and at Prestwick Carr on 29th (PCF). Singles birds were noted at 19 other sites.

**Common Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*

15 birds were at Grindon Lough on 11th (PRM), 12 were at Kielder Forest on 13th (JPD). Eight were at Rothbury on 6th (JD), seven were seen at Harwood Forest on 8th (JD) and at West Hartford on 9th (STH). 52 records involving one to six birds were received.



A Common Buzzard over a Stonewell garden by by Chris Barlow

**Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus*

Gosforth Park NR had up to three pairs throughout the month (NHSN *et al*). Prestwick Carr peaked at 4+ birds on 5th (PRM *et al*). Up to three birds were noted at Cresswell Pond and Swallow Pond on several dates. Arcot Pond and St Mary's had two birds and singles were noted at East Chevington, Hauxley NWT, and Warkworth Lane and West Hartford.



An alert Moorhen at Duke's Pond by Adriana Buskin

**Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*

33 birds at Swallow Pond on 26th was the highest count (JPD) followed by 18 at Howden on 24th (CB). One to five birds were at eight other sites during the month.



**Coot** *Fulica atra*

QEII CP had the highest count with 46 on 23rd (CDH) and 30 were at Killingworth Lake on 7th (IF), 27 were at Big Waters and East Chevington on 16th and 20th (GB/PRM), 26 at Bothal Pond on 16th (TD) and 23 were at Arcot Pond on 1st (DM). One to 17 birds were at ten sites.

**Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*

St Mary's had 75 on 31st (KWY), 40+ were at Whitley Bay 17th (MSH) and 11 to 29 at Berwick, Cocklawburn, Low Newton and Newbiggin. Eight or fewer were found at Bamburgh, Cheswick, Cresswell Pond, Hauxley NR, North Shields, Seahouses and River Tweed estuary.

A Turnstone by Alan Jack

**Knot** *Calidris canutus*

The only record was of one at Cresswell Pond on 3rd (TRD/JD).

**Sanderling** *Calidris alba*

At least 100 were still present at Holy Island (Sandham Bay) at the end of the month (IK), 80+ were at Whitley Bay on 17th (MSH) and 38 at Cocklawburn on 11th. St Mary's had peaks of 30 on 8th and 31st and the maximum at Tynemouth was 24 on 10th. Berwick, East Chevington, Low Newton and North Shields had 12-15 at times with small numbers at Snab Point and Newbiggin.

**Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*

The highest count was of 205 at Newbiggin on 10th (AT) followed by 65 at St Mary's on 9th (CGK) and a peak of 60 at Cresswell Pond on 3rd (TRD/JD). The most at Tynemouth was 25 on 4th, 20 were at Amble Braid on 26th and 17 at Hauxley NR on 16th with small numbers at Berwick, Druridge Pools, Low Newton and Whitley Bay.

**Purple Sandpiper** *Calidris maritima*

Newbiggin held 43 on 28th (PRM), Seahouses 30 on 11th and Low Newton 20 on 13th. The most at Berwick was 18 on 13th, Snab Point had 14 on 16th and the peak at Tynemouth was 12 on 30th. Up to ten were at each of Holy Island and Stag Rocks and nine or fewer at Beadnell, St Mary's, Seaton Sluice, Stag Rocks and Whitley Bay.

A February Purple Sandpiper  
St. Mary's  
by Jack Bucknall

**Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*

Three were noted at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 2nd (JPD/MPF/AS) and on 24th (SR) and one on 8th. Singles were seen Rothbury to Thropton on 5th, at Hedgeley on 15th and at Lynemouth Wind Farm on 20th.

**Redshank** *Tringa totanus*

At or near the coast the top counts were of 220 roosting at St Mary's Wetland on 15th (SPP), 180 at East Howdon (Northumberland Dock) on 8th (CGK/AJ) with 116 at Howdon Wetland on 25th (CB); 52-82 occurred at Cresswell Pond, Hauxley NR and R Tweed estuary. Small numbers were noted at several other places near the coast. The first inland returns were one at Grindon Lough on 9th, five at Derwent Reservoir and one at Melkridge on 10th, one at Hollin Green on 11th and four at Coanwood Common on 13th. It was soon widespread in potential breeding areas and display was witnessed in the Allendale area, at Coanwood Common, Grindon Lough, Hollin Green and Ridley Common.

**Jack Snipe** *Lymnocyptes minimus*

Two were at Howdon on 11th (JPD/MPF/AS) and one there on 24th (CB). Other singles appeared at Backworth on 1st (JPD/MPF/AS), St Mary's Wetland on 12th (JBU), at Woodhorn Flashes on 14th and at Haughton Strother GP on 31st (MR).

**Woodcock** *Scolopax rusticola*

Five records of singles were received: back in a regular breeding wood at Otterburn Training Area on 7th (IK/BG), at Ellington on 15th (TB), at Cramlington on 16th (DM), flushed in dunes at Holy Island on 31st (IK) and during the month at Gosforth Park NR (NHSN).

**Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*

The largest concentrations were of 23 at Druridge Pools on 20th (PRM), 21 at St Mary's Wetland on 15th (SPP), 14 at Howdon on 7th and 14 at Old Hartley on 11th. Some were singing at Acton Fell on 5th and there was a widespread return to breeding areas evident from 11th with display noted from many parts of Allendale and also Carrshield Moor, Coanwood Common, Hollin Green, Kielder, Plenmeller Common, Ridley Common and Spartylea. Small numbers were reported from another 14 places, mainly near the coast.

**Avocet** *Recurvirostra avosetta*

Cresswell Pond hosted a single bird from 1st-3rd and 21st (TB/AA/JBU et al), three on 11th and 25th (TB/IRD), two on 28th (PRM) and one on 31st (TRD/JD). Two circled the north pool at East Chevington before flying S, on 29th (TF/JFa).

**Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus*

Peak gatherings included 91 at Derwent Reservoir on 1st falling to 78 on 4th (IFo), 90 at Tynemouth on 10th (DRW), 63 at Hauxley NWT on 16th (HRS), 55 at Branton GP on 19th (AJR), 52 at Berwick north shore on 13th (MHu) and 22-44 at Cresswell Pond, Haughton Strother GP, Maiden's Hall Lake, Melkridge (R South Tyne), Pegswood Community Park and Whittle Dene Reservoirs. Some 12-18 were also noted at Bywell Haughs, Coatenhill Pond (near Spartylea), Lynemouth Flash, the Tweed estuary, West Hartford and Whitfield. An exceptional number of reports of potential breeding birds included groups of eight at three sites and one to six birds (mainly pairs) from approx. 40 locations.

**Golden Plover** *Pluvialis apricaria*

Plenmeller Common attracted a very large flock with ca.600 on 11th increasing to ca.1,200 on 19th (SJH). Other large flocks included 700 at Lynemouth wind farm on 20th (AT), 500 at both St Mary's Island on 28th and between Annitsford-Seghill (A190 flash) on 29th but also present for about a week here (JPD/IF), ca.400 at both Druridge Pools on 28th and Meadow Cottage ('northern' birds) on 25th (JSB/EC). Smaller groups of 100-217 were noted at Low Acton Farm (Allendale), Hammersfield (near Allenheads), Hollin Green (near Keenley), Paxhill (near Allenheads) and Prestwick Carr (SJH/MSH), and 60-90 were present at Coanwood Common (including one displaying), Cramlington (Beaconhill) and Nedderton (near Bedlington). Displaying birds were also noted at Acton Moor, Knockburn (Allenheads), Low Acton Farm (Allendale), Paxhill (near Allenheads) and Whitefield Hill. One to four were also reported from Bothal Pond, Hazelrigg, Royal Grammar School playing field (Jesmond), Linton, Rothbury (heard from the observer's bed at 23.30hrs and reflecting the County Recorder's dedication to the job!) and Sipton Burn.

**Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*

A count of 120 at Fenham-le-Moor on 11th was the highest by far (TRD/JD). Beadnell hosted 18 on 4th (SW), Newbiggin bay held peaks of 12 on 10th and nine on 12th (AT/ADMc) and Hauxley NR held a high of six on 14th (JSB/EC).

**Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus*

A large number of reports this month included both pre-breeding flocks and birds on territory. The largest flock was of 250+ at Hoppen Kiln Flash (Bradford Kaims, near Lucker) on 1st (MSH). A count of 200 at Low Acton Farm (Allendale) included a group of 180 plus others on territory on 17th (SJH) and 160 at Acton Moor involved 80-90 pairs on 13th (ASJ). West Stobswood Pool held 150+ on 6th (MSH) and totals of 100-120 included some territorial birds at Coanwood Common, Rowley Burn, New Moor (Ashington) and Swinhope Shield (near Spartylea) (SJH/TB). Counts of 40-83 were noted at Fell House (Plenmeller Common), Hollin Green (near Keenley), Knockburn area (Allendale), Plenmeller village area, Prestwick Carr, Todhilwood Fell (Plenmeller Common) and 20-32 were seen at Big Waters, Druridge Pools and Grindon Lough. Smaller gatherings and breeding pairs were reported from a further 12 locations.

**Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius*

The first bird of the year was seen at a confidential site on 11th. Birds noted thereafter included a single at a roadside flash near Linton on 21st (TB), two at Haughton Strother GP on 24th (MR) and one at Cresswell Pond on 29th (TF/JFa/IRD/ADMc).

**Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*

Berwick Little Beach hosted 12 on 5th (MHu), nine were at Cresswell Pond on 1st (TB) and one to four were seen at Cheswick Black Rocks, the beach at East Chevington and East Stobswood Pool.

**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*

A calling bird flew N over Ellington on 5th (TB).



**Curlew** *Numenius arquata*

Well reported this month; coastal peaks included 160 at high tide at Fenham Mill on 1st (AJR), 126 at Druridge Pools on 20th (PRM), 105 at Cresswell Pond on 20th (PRM) and 102 at East Chevington on 15th (PCF). A group numbered 90 at Swinhope Shield (near Spartylea) on 11th (SJH) and two flocks totalling 88 moved SW at Derwent Reservoir on 3rd (IFo). 65 at Coanwood Common on 13th included a group of 47 and birds on territory (SJH). Further gatherings included 86 at Hauxley NWT on 6th (HRS), 66 on the Tweed estuary on 14th (MHu), 62 at Prestwick Carr on 22nd (GB), 60 at Plenmeller village area on 11th (SJH); 41-56 at Cocklawburn, Hammershield (Allenheads), Hollin Green (near Keenley), Park Gill (Allendale) and 12-35 at Acton Moor (Allendale), Airy Holm Reservoir (near Shotleyfield), Fell House (Plenmeller Common), Grindon Lough, Haughton Strother GP, Holywell Pond, Howdon and Low Acton Farm (Allendale). Single figure reports came from a further 15 sites.

**Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa*

Following two on 18th, Druridge Pools hosted birds until the end of the month, peaking at ten on 23rd (IRD et al); eight flew off N from here on 31st (TRD/JD). The wintering group on the Blyth estuary remained throughout with eight still present on 29th (LJM/CGK et al). Two birds were present on Holy Island throughout the month, with a peak of six to seven between 9th-14th (IK/SR/AH). Cresswell Pond attracted three on 18th (IRD) and one on 29th (PCF) and one to two were noted at Hauxley NWT on three dates (HRS/IFo).

**Bar-tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica*

A count at Berwick Little Beach totalled 18 on 20th (MHu) and Hauxley NWT held between 14-17 on three dates (HRS/IFo). Ten were noted at both Budle Bay on 11th and Low Newton scrape on 13th (TRD/JD), six were on the Tweed estuary on 7th (MHu) and one to five were seen at Cocklawburn, Cresswell Pond, Hauxley beach, Low Newton and Lynemouth flash.

**Auk** *sp*

A maximum of 35 flew N in four hours at the Seaton Sluice watch point on 26th but otherwise only very small numbers were recorded there during the month (SSWT).

**Puffin** *Fratercula arctica*

One flew S at St Mary's Island on 15th (JPD).

**Razorbill** *Alca torda*

Few sightings at Seaton Sluice throughout the month, with a maximum of four S in one hour on 14th (SSWT). Elsewhere, one or two were recorded at Bamburgh, East Chevington and Holy Island Harbour from 8th-11th (TRD/JD).

**Guillemot** *Uria aalge*

As with the other auk species, only small numbers were recorded from Seaton Sluice during the month with a maximum of six moving S in 1.5 hours on 8th (SSWT). At Bamburgh, Stag Rocks at least 20 were present on 1st (BRS), four were at Cocklawburn on 11th (MHu) with one or two at North Shields (PRM) and Whitley Bay (IJ).

**Sandwich Tern** *Sterna sandvicensis*

A single, the first returning bird of the spring, was sighted flying N at St Mary's Island on 28th (JPD).

**Kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla*

At Seaton Sluice, a count of 163 S in two hours was the monthly maximum but otherwise only small numbers were recorded throughout (SSWT). At the Tyne Bridge colony the first returning bird was noted on 11th with 29 there by 18th; one was also at the Guildhall nest site on 18th (DM). At Tynemouth, 17 were on the sea below the cliffs at the Priory on 10th, rising to 32 on 22nd (SPP) and 20 were noted there on the cliffs on 29th (KWY). A 1st-winter bird was in Blyth Harbour on 28th (STH).

**Black-headed Gull** *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

At the large Plenmeller Common breeding colony at least 500 were present on 11th and the numbers had increased to ca.800 by 23rd (SJH). Other significant gatherings comprised in excess of 500 at Northumberland Dock, East Howdon on 8th (CGK/AJ), ca.450 at West Ord, Berwick on 9th (MHu), 50-400 at Grindon Lough on various dates throughout (SJH/PRM/MRS), 300+ feeding on the shoreline at St Mary's Island on 2nd (SPP), 273 at the QEII CP Lake on 23rd (CDH) and 150 at the Haughton Strother GP on 9th (MR). Flocks of 30-80 were reported from Castle Island and Leazes Park Lake (DM), the River Tweed Estuary (MHu) and Scots Gap (JR) with 10-30 at Arcot Pond, Exhibition Park and Hauxley NWT. At Gosforth Park NR at least 50 birds returned to the breeding platform from mid-month with display and mating noted (NHSN).

**Mediterranean Gull** *Larus melanocephalus*

Numbers declined slightly from last month at the favoured Newbiggin South Bay with a maximum of seven, comprising five adults and two 1st-winters, on 23rd (CGK/GPK/PS) with two to six there on other dates throughout the month including a maximum of three adults (JBU/TB/IFo/STH/PRM/ADM). Elsewhere, one or two were at Beadnell Bay, Cresswell Pond/Snab Point, Howdon, Seaton Sluice, St Mary's Island, Swallow Pond, Tynemouth, West Ord and Woodhorn Flashes.

**Common Gull** *Larus canus*

By far the largest concentration was recorded at Hexham where in excess of 1,200 were counted on 7th (AJH) with three-figure records of 400+ at Haughton Strother GP on 11th (MR), 250 at Scots Gap on 15th (JR), 200 at Wark (North Tyne) on 30th (PRM), 150 at Hartington Hall on 15th (JR) and at Grindon Lough with a maximum monthly count of 144 on 24th (SJH). Elsewhere, counts of 16-80 came from Bellingham, Greystead and West Ord (Berwick) with one to five at Arcot Pond, Rayburn Lake and the River Tweed Estuary,

### **Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus graelsii*

At Seaton Sluice, 31 returning birds passed N during the month with a peak of 11 N on 15th (SSWT). Several large gatherings were noted, comprising mainly adult birds, with 44 at Budle Bay on 21st (MSH), a monthly maximum of 40 at West Hartford on 25th (STH/LJM), up to 34 at Swallow Pond on 26th (JPD/SPP), 30 in Jesmond Dene on 23rd (MJCo) and 18 at Elswick Wharf (River Tyne) on 20th (DM). Eight were in the River Tweed Estuary on 14th (MHu) with one to four noted elsewhere, generally in the second half of the month, at more than 20 localities, approximately half of which were at or near the coast and the remainder well inland or in urban areas within the Newcastle conurbation.

### **Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus argenteus*

The largest counts were 242 found during a WeBS survey on the River Tweed Estuary on 14th (MHu), 69 on the River Tyne from Elswick Wharf-Newcastle Business Park on 5th (DM), 49 at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 8th (SR) and 34 at Leazes Park, Newcastle on 24th (DM). Ten to 20 were at Berwick (North Shore), Castle Island, Jesmond Dene and Scots Gap with one to four at three other localities.

### **Iceland Gull** *Larus glaucoideus*

A single 1st-winter bird fed in the South Bay at St Mary's Island on 2nd (SPP/JBu/DMcG *et al*) and an un-aged bird was recorded at the Long Nanny, High Newton on 16th (GR).



A Herring Gull at Berwick on 11th March by Tim Dean



A first winter Iceland Gull at St. Mary's by Alan Jack

### **Great Black-backed Gull** *Larus marinus*

Few reports this month with maximum counts of only 22 at East Chevington on 20th (PRM) and 11 found during a WeBS survey in the River Tweed Estuary on 14th (MHu). Elsewhere, one to four were recorded at Berwick (North Shore), Castle Island, Elswick Wharf, Grindon Lough, Hauxley NWT and Plenmeller Common.



**Stock Dove** *Columba oenas*

On 7th 56 was the maximum count for the month at Howdon Wetland (CB) with 30 at Hartley on 29th (CGK/GPK), 28 at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 22nd (SR), 23 in the Knockburn area (Allendale) on 11th (SJH), 13 at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 2nd (TB) and 13 at Paxhill (near Allenheads) on 11th. One to nine were at 14 other widely spread locations.



A Stock Dove in a Rothbury garden on 8th March  
by Janet Dean

**Woodpigeon** *Columba palumbus*

More than 400 were at Windmill Lane (Cramlington) on 15th (LJM), 50 – 150 at Hartley West Farm during the month (RJP), 100 in the Keenley area (Whitfield) on 21st and 23rd, 80 at Paxhill (Allenheads) on 24th and 60 in the Knockburn area (Allenheads) on 11th (SJH) with 47 at Furnace Bridge (Bedlington) on 27th (JR). One to eight were at four other locations.

**Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*

Seven were at Berwick Hill on 30th (PCF), four at Rockcliffe (Whitley Bay) on 3rd (IJ) and Dinnington on 23rd where breeding was confirmed. Two were at Prudhoe on 5th and 10th and in the Observer's garden at Walbottle on 16th with singles at Jesmond Dene and Eachwick.

**Barn Owl** *Tyto alba*

Hunting birds were seen at East Ord (Berwick) at 2.00pm on 4th (Ann Hutcheson per MHu), Haydon Bridge on 8th (MD), Prestwick Carr on 15th and 26th (per PCF) and Keel Row (Seaton Delaval) on 18th (JR). The A1 claimed two more victims with dead birds ½ mile north of Alnwick on 5th and at Belford on 9th (AH).

**Little Owl** *Athene noctua*

A pair was on territory at Shiremoor all month (CGK et al) and two, one of which had a damaged eye, were at Big Waters on 2nd (GB). Singles were at Beacon Lane (Cramlington) on three dates, Big Waters on 9th and East Stobswood Pool on 31st.

**Tawny Owl** *Strix aluco*

Birds called throughout the month at Fulbeck (Morpeth) and Walbottle (TD/KR/LR) with singles also at Linden Hall (Longhorsley) on 1st (ASJ), Harwood Forest on 8th (JD) and Woodhorn Flashes on 28th (PRM).

**Long eared owl** *Asio otus*

A pair were seen on territory at a site in the SE of the county from 16th (CGK/JPD et al) and one roosted by the Tweed at East Ord (Berwick) on 12th (BWG).

**Short-eared Owl** *Asio flammeus*

Two were at Coanwood Common on 23rd (SJH) and a single perched at Prestwick Carr on 8th and 12th but only seen hunting in daylight on 13th (PCF/JPD) with one at West Chevington on 18th (ADMc).

**Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*

The only multiple sighting was two at Branton GP on 28th (IBDa/KDa) with singles at Jesmond Dene regularly between 3rd and 19th (DHWB/KWY/MJCo), at Gosforth Park during the month (NHSN), at Haughton Strother on 7th and 28th (MR) and at Farnley (Corbridge) on 19th (RB/MB).

**Green Woodpecker** *Picus viridis*

Widely reported with four the peak at Bakethin Reservoir on 13th (JPD/MPF/AS) and two on 12th (PRM) with two heard at Farnley (Corbridge) on 19th (RB/MB). Singles were at Rothbury and Gosforth Park NR all month and at Harwood Village on 2nd, Holystone on 6th, Newburn on 11th, Ridley Stokoe and Walbottle on 13th, Arcot Pond on 23rd, Weetslade CP on 29th and at Catcleugh Reservoir, Blakehopeburn (Redesdale), Kielder Village all on 31st.

**Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major*

A count of four including two drumming males at Belsay Hall on 29th (PRM) with two at Holywell Dene and Jesmond Dene all month (RJP/DWHB/MJCo), at Walbottle on 4th, Wallington and Kielder Water on 12th, Eachwick on 16th, Morpeth on 21st, Bassington NR (Cramlington) on 24th and East Chevington on 25th. Singles were at 16 other widely spread localities.

**Lesser Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos minor*

One was heard in mature deciduous trees adjacent River North Tyne near the Old School House (Wark) at 16.15h on 30th (PRM).

**Kestrel** *Falco tinninculus*

Four birds were noted at Big Waters on 23rd (GB) and pairs were at Grindon Lough on 16th (PRM), Druridge Pools and East Chevington on 20th (PRM) and at Pegswood on 21st (TB). Singles were at 19 sites throughout the month.

**Merlin** *Falco columbarius*

All sightings involved single birds this month, with birds on or near the coast at Lucker on 1st (NNBC), Holy island on 8th (TD) and 11th (SR), Long Nanny on 9th (IBDa/KDa), Beal on 11th (TRD/JD) and at East Chevington on 20th (PRM). Singles were also noted at three inland sites.

**Peregrine** *Falco peregrinus*

A pair was at one inland site on 26th (SJH) and singles were noted at four inland sites including one over Newcastle City Centre on 6th and 31st (DRW). Singles were at eight sites on or near the coast.

**Magpie** *Pica pica*

A high count of 83 at Swallow Pond on 11th (JPD), an evening roost at Big Waters held 24 on 10th (GB), 17 at Arcot Pond on 2nd (STH) and 10 at Derwent Reservoir on 6th with two to six at Eachwick, Holywell Dene, Jesmond Dene and Walbottle.

**Jay** *Garrulus glandarius*

At Dally Castle a flock of seven flew S at 16.20 on 16th (SW), four were present at Gosforth Park NR during the month (NHSN) with two to three at Swallow Pond on 8th (SPP), and two at Lordenshaw on 1st (ASJ), Benton (Newcastle) on 3rd (IJ) and Mosswood (near Wallish Walls) on 27th (AJN). Singles were at Jesmond Dene regularly during the month and at ten other locations.

**Jackdaw** *Corvus monedula*

Large gatherings of 200 at Bothal Pond on 14th (AT), 150-180 in the Keenley area (Whitfield) on 21st & 23rd (SJH), 110 at Walbottle on 15th (KR/LR), 84 at Howdon on 19th (CB) and 25 including one Nordic type at Killingworth Lake on 7th (IF). One to 12 were at Eachwick, Jesmond Dene and Newbiggin.

**Rook** *Corvus frugilegus*

Counts of 121 from QEII CP on 17th and Longhirst on 28th, 34 at Woodhorn on 17th and 30 at Old Moor (Longhirst) on the same date (AT). 22 occupied nests at Holywell Dene on 15th with five visiting a Old Hartley Garden on 23rd (RJP), six north at Tynemouth on 6th and one at the pier base on 24th (CB).

**Carrion Crow** *Corvus corone*

The largest count was 61 at Windmill Lane (Cramlington) on 15th (LJM) with around 30 at Otterburn Training area on 7th (IK/BG) and one to eight at Holywell Dene, Jesmond Dene and north past Seaton Sluice.

**Raven** *Corvus corax*

Eleven were seen from Winters Gibbett (Harwood Forest) on 7th with 14 reported on the same day (ASJ) with three the next highest count at Deadwater (Kielder) on 12th (PRM). Two were at Harwood Forest on three further dates, Acton Bridge and Sipton Bridge (Allendale), Mounces Viewpoint (Kielder), Makendon (Upper Coquetdale), Old Quickening Cote, Plenmellor Common and Shillmoor with singles at seven other upland locations. Pairs with active nests were found at four locations at a confidential site in the county (IK/BG).



**Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus*

Around ten were at Kielder Water on 12th (PRM), five found over 2km at Prestwick Carr on 1st (PCF) and three at Budle Point on 9th (GPK), Furnace Bridge (Bedlington) on 27th (JR) and Belsay Hall on 29th (PRM). Two were at Farnley Corbridge on 15th, Castle Island (R Wansbeck) on 25th, Tynemouth on 29th and Grindon Lough on 30th with singles at ten other widely spread localities.

**Blue Tit** *Cyanistes caeruleus*

Peak counts of 15 at Gosforth Park NR during the month (NHSN), five to seven in an Old Hartley Garden (RJP) and seven at Eachwick on 16th (CDB) and Furnace Bridge (Bedlington) on 27th (JR), four in the observer's garden at Walbottle on 23rd (KR/LR) and two at Jesmond Dene on 4th (MJCo).

**Great Tit** *Parus major*

Monthly peak of 12 from Gosforth Park NR and at Prestwick Carr on 1st with nine there together on the same date (NHSN/PCF/GB), eight at Jesmond Dene on 9th (MJCo) and three to seven visiting an old Hartley garden during the month (RJP). Two to four were at Eachwick, Furnace Bridge (Bedlington) and Walbottle.

**Coal Tit** *Periparus ater*

More than twenty were found at Wallington Hall on 1st (ASJ), up to six visiting feeders at a Tynemouth garden during the month (CB), one to five in an Old Hartley garden (RJP), for at Jesmond Dene on 9th (MJCo) and two the peak in a Walbottle garden (KR/LR).

**Willow Tit** *Poecile montanus*

Two pairs were at Longhorsley Moor on 13th (AB/LB), three including one pair at Prestwick Carr on 15th (PCF). Two were at the above sites regularly and at Brierdene (Whitley Bay) on 8th and 29th (CGK/AJ), Holywell Dene on 12th (RJP) Eachwick on 16th (CDB) and Longhorsley Common on 29th (AB/LB). Singles were also at Arcot Pond regularly with possibly the same bird at Beacon Lane (Cramlington), Big Waters, Derwent Reservoir, Longhoughton quarry and Rising Sun CP (Wallsend).

**Marsh Tit** *Poecile palustris*

Two were at Castle Island on 21st (PG) and singing at Scotch Gill Woods (Morpeth) on 23rd (CGK/GPK/PS) with singles at Castle Island on 6th and Big Waters on 22nd (PG/AJN).

**Bearded Tit** *Panurus biarmicus*

The single male was recorded in the county at North Pool (East Chevington) on 10th (TRD/JD) ending a decade waiting for these observers and also seen on 25th by a retired recorder (IF).

**Skylark** *Alauda arvensis*

Counts of 20 singing at Rowley Burn on 1st and Allendale on 13th (AJH/ASJ) with 15 at Simonside on 1st (ASJ) and ten at Spital Burn (Newbiggin) on 24th (AT). Six flew north at Marden Farm Estate (Tynemouth) on 10th and five mobbed a Buzzard at Eachwick on 16th with five singing at Holywell Pond on 22nd and four at Grindon Lough on 14th. One to three were at eight other widely spread localities.

**Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia*

The earliest sightings were on 21st being singles at Big Waters and Swallow Pond (GB/CGK) with six at Brandon (Breamish Valley), two at Big Waters on 22nd (IBDa/KDa/GB) and two at Haughton Strother on 23rd (MR). Numbers built rapidly with 244 over Branton GP in two hours on 25th (per NNBC), 50 at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 31st (MR) and seven at Morpeth on the same date. One to six were at seven other locations from 24th.

**Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*

The first returning bird was seen at Branton GP on 25th (per NNBC) with the only other report one flying N at Kielderburn on 30th (MD).

**Long-tailed Tit** *Aegithalos caudatus*

Eight in Jesmond Dene on 16th was the highest count (MJCo). One to four were reported from a further 16 localities, including two at St Mary's Island from 26th-30th, an unusual spring locality (MSH). Nest building was noted in a Walbottle garden on 2nd and at Longhorsley Common on 13th.

**Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita*

A total of 96 records were submitted for the month, with the species becoming widespread from mid-month. Peak counts included eight at Swallow Pond by 26th, seven singing at Furnace Bridge (Bedlington) on 27th (JR), six at Hartford Woods and Holywell Dene on 22nd-23rd and fives at Branton GP, Plessey Woods, QEII CP and Wallsend Dene from 19th-25th. At the latter locality and at Swallow Pond birds were heard a full three weeks earlier than last year. In addition, up to four were reported from Arcot Pond, Gosforth Park NR, Holy Island and Swallowship Wood (Hexham) with one to three noted at a further 48 localities throughout the county.

**Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*

Single wintering birds were reported from Holywell Dene and a Walbottle garden on 9th (RJP/KR/LR) and Monkseaton on 30th (MSH).

**Lesser Whitethroat** *Sylvia curruca blythi*

The bird present at Tynemouth since January was still present on 24th (CB).

**Waxwing** *Bombycilla garrulus*

A flock of 14 flew SSW at Bywell Bridge on 31st (*per* HRS).

**Nuthatch** *Sitta europaea*

Well reported this month from a total of 18 localities. Peak counts of five came from Bolam Lake and Hareshaw Linn (Bellingham), while four were noted at Plessey Woods and Wallington Hall and three at Belsay Hall and Linden Hall. One to two were reported from Chugdon Wood (Ellington), Corbridge, Eachwick, Farnley, Furnace Bridge, Jesmond Dene, Kielder Castle, Ponteland, Rothbury, Simonburn, Wark and Warkworth Lane.

**Treecreeper** *Certhia familiaris*

One to three were reported from 11 localities, including three at Linden Hall on 1st, a pair displaying at Scotch Gill Woods on 23rd and a bird in song at Backworth on 14th.

**Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes*

An encouraging total of 21 were found over a 2km stretch at Prestwick Carr on 1st (PCF), six singing males were noted at Longhorsley Moor on 13th (AB/LB) and four were singing at Jesmond Dene and Longhorsley Common. One to two were also at Eachwick and in a Walbottle garden.

**Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*

The largest gathering was of 5,000 at Allendale on 13th (ASJ). At Great Whittington, 2,000-3,000+ gathered at dusk during a three week period, attracting the attention of two marauding Peregrines (ALT). In addition 2,000 were reported from Linden Hall on 1st (ASJ), 1,200 at Ridley Common on 17th (SJH) and 750 near Allenheads on 11th (SJH). Elsewhere 350-500 were noted at Big Waters, Derwent Reservoir, Grindon Lough and Prestwick Carr, while in the south west of the county 200 were at Carrshield Moor and several flocks of 100-170 were reported from and the Allendale, Coanwood and Whitfield areas.

**Dipper** *Cinclus cinclus*

In Upper Coquetdale 15 pairs were located, 13 of which were on full clutches by the end of the month (JR). Nesting activity was also reported from Hedgeley (carrying food – KDa), Holywell Dene (carrying nest material - RJP), Holywell Village (nest building- ASJ), Jesmond Dene (incubating at Waterfall – DHWB), West Holywell Dene (carrying nest material - SPP) and Tarsset Burn (visiting a nest box – SW). Elsewhere three were found in the Harthope Valley on 24th, two at Plessey Woods on 19th and at Rothbury on 1st and singles were noted at Corbridge, Farnley (Corbridge), Hartford Bridge (Bedlington), Highford Bridge (Morpeth), Melkridge, Ridley Stokoe and Whitfield.



A Dipper in Holywell Dene by Jack Bucknall

**Ring Ouzel** *Turdus torquatus*

A male was at Sipton Burn (Allendale) on 25th-26th (JSB/EC/SJH) and another male on Holy Island on 31st (IK).

**Blackbird** *Turdus merula*

Light movement was witnessed at Holy Island with 35-40 noted daily from 28th-31st (IK). At Prestwick Carr, 24 were counted along a 2km stretch on 1st (PCF) and up to 13 were noted in a Walbottle garden during the month (KR/LR). There were counts of nine from Furnace Bridge (Bedlington) on 27th and Longhorsley Common on 11th and three to four at Eachwick, Jesmond Dene and Whitley Bay.



**Fieldfare** *Turdus pilaris*

As usual there was a significant increase in March as birds began moving through the county towards Scandinavian breeding grounds. Two very large gatherings in the west of the county involved 1,262 at Coanwood Common on 19th (SJH) and 1,000+ at Ridley Stokoe on 13th (JPD). In the Grindon Lough area there were ca.500 at Crindledykes on 18th (SJH), 720+ at Grindon Lough on 22nd (PRM) and c.450 here on 23rd (PRM). Two flocks totalling ca.600 were at Wanneys on 18th (MD) and 100-200 were noted at Carrshield Moor, Derwent Reservoir, Elsdon Bridge, Greystead, Keenley, Prestwick Carr, Ryal, Sweethope Lough, Wallish Walls and Weetslade CP, with numerous smaller flocks reported widely throughout the county. On the coast small flocks of up to 50 were noted moving through Holy Island on 31st.

**Song Thrush** *Turdus philomelos*

Birds in song rendered the species much more conspicuous during the month. Six were singing at Linden Hall on 1st (ASJ) and six were found at Prestwick Carr on the same day (PCF). Up to five were reported from Jesmond Dene and four were at Mootlaw Quarry (Ryal). One to three were noted at a further eight localities.

**Redwing** *Turdus iliacus*

A flock of 75 at Borough Woods (Morpeth) on 11th was the largest gathering (ADMc). Elsewhere, 34 were at Prestwick Carr on 8th, 30+ at Harwood Forest on 1st and 26 at Swallow Pond on 8th. Flocks of 20 were reported from Jesmond Dene on 9th, Leazes Park on 7th and Grindon Lough on 22nd; 18 were at Keenley (Whitfield) on 23rd and ten at Derwent Reservoir on 21st. One to six were noted at a further 14 localities. Nocturnal emigration was reported from Shiremoor on 23rd.

**Mistle Thrush** *Turdus viscivorus*

Six were in Jesmond Dene on 4th (MJCo) and four at Coanwood Common 13th (SJH). Elsewhere one to two were reported from Allendale, Corbridge, Harbottle (carrying nest material), Kielder Water, Newbiggin, Old Quickening Cote, Redesdale, Ridley Stokoe, Whitley Bay and Woodhorn Flashes.

**Robin** *Erithacus rubecula*

Eight 'greyish' continental birds were scattered across Holy Island on 30th (IK). Nine were singing at Furnace Bridge (Bedlington) on 27th (JR) and six to seven were in song at Longhorsley Common and Longhorsley Moor on 11th and 13th respectively. One to four were reported from a further four localities.

**Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

A female-type was at Ellington on 27th-28th (TB), a male at Holy Island (Snook) on 29th (PG/SRB/IK), a probable first-winter male at Whitley Bay Cemetery also on 29th (MSH) and an un-aged/sexed individual at Druridge on 31st (TRD/JD).



The Druridge Black Redstart  
by Tim Dean on 31st March

**Stonechat** *Saxicola rubicola*

The only inland record was of three (male+2 females) at Simonside on 1st (ASJ). On the coast, a pair at Cresswell on 22nd comprised a singing male and a female gathering nest material (ASJ); another singing male and a female were at Druridge Pools on 20th and a singing male at Newbiggin on 28th. One to two were also reported from Boulmer, Cocklawburn, East Chevington, High Hauxley, Priors Park (Tynemouth-a site rarity), Tynemouth Haven and St Mary's Island during the month.

**Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe*

A male at Coanwood Common on 13th was the first bird of the year (SJH), followed by another inland male in the Alwin Valley on 15th (JR). On the coast, one was at Cresswell Pond on 21st-22nd and further inland birds appeared at Shillmoor (Upper Coquetdale) on 23rd and Sipton Burn on 24th. By the end of the month one to two were noted at Newbiggin, St Mary's Island and Tynemouth; three were at Alwinton on 29th and six on Holy Island on 30th.



An early Wheatear, a male at Druridge  
22nd March by Alan Jack

**Duncock** *Prunella modularis*

15 were noted in 2km at Prestwick Carr on 1st (PCF). Eight in Cramlington in 500m on 24th included five singing males (LJM). Four were in the car park at Kenton Bank Foot Metro Station on 30th and one-three at six other locations.

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*

Garden counts of 17 at Eachwick (CDB) and 12 at Walbottle (KR/LR) both on 23rd were the only reports received in the month.



A cock House Sparrow at Berwick by Janet Dean



**Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus*

50 at Beehive North Pond, Earsdon on 2nd reduced to 30 by 24th (MNC). 28 were at Chugdon Wood, Ellington on 2nd (TB). 21 were at Branton on 17th (IBDa/KDa). 12-14 were at Walbottle, Haughton Strother Gravel Pits and Cresswell Pond.

**Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*

Eight to 10 flew north in low fog at Kielderburn in four hours on 30th (MD). Four were in Jesmond Dene on 9th (MJCo). Fulbeck, Wark, Prudhoe and Hall Grounds, Wallsend all recorded three during the month. A further 12 sites held two individuals and singles were noted at 16 localities.

**Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla alba yarrelli*

12 were at Prestwick Carr on 4th (MRS) and 10 at Bothal Pond on 14th (AT) and in Upper Coquetdale on 23rd (JR). 30-40 north in four hours at Kielderburn on 30th was a good indication of passage (MD). One to six were at nine other sites.

**White Wagtail** *Motacilla alba*

A small number of passage birds were noted from 22nd with three at Cresswell and one at Druridge Pools on that day (ASJ). Singles were at Tynemouth, Low Newton and the Long Nanny on 23rd and at Holywell Grange on 24th.

A White Wagtail at Druridge on 22nd March by Alan Jack

**Meadow Pipit** *Anthus pratensis*

Displaying birds were noted from 10th with six at St. Mary's Island and 'many' displaying on Holy Island; 20+ were further inland displaying at Allendale on 13th (ASJ/IK). 20 moved through Shillmoor, Upper Coquetdale and 30 at Old Quickening Cote on 23rd (JR). Back at the coast 51 were noted moving N between 10th-26th at Seaton Sluice. By 30th passage had picked up and ca.300 moved N in four hours at Kielderburn (MD).



A Meadow Pipit by Jack Bucknall



**Rock Pipit** *Anthus petrosus*

Five were at Low Newton on 26th (TRD/JD), four at Berwick Little Beach on 11th. Two were noted from Beal Point, Snab Point, Rockcliffe, and St. Mary's Island. Displaying birds were noted at four sites on Holy Island during the month.



A Rock Pipit at Berwick by Tim Dean

**'Scandinavian' Rock Pipit** *Anthus petrosus littoralis*

As is typical for March a small number of this race were recorded from mid-month with three at Low Newton on 13th (TRD/JD), followed by three on 14th at Whitley Bay (MSH). Two were in the south bay at St. Mary's Island on 24th and 31st (JBU/KWY) and a single was again on the beach at Whitley Bay on 31st (MSH).



A 'Scandinavian' Rock Pipit at St. Mary's by Jack Bucknall



**Brambling** *Fringilla montifringilla*

25 at Wallington Hall on 1st was the peak count during the month (ASJ); this had declined to five by 30th (PG). Up to 20 were reported from the Grindon Farm/Lough area between 15th-23rd (PG *et al*). 17 were at Borough Woods, Morpeth on 13th (ADMc). One to three were recorded at four other sites.



A Brambling photographed by Dennis Lovatt

**Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs*

85 at Humshaugh during the month was the maximum count though 80+, mostly males, on feeders at Kielder Castle on 11th pushed it close (TWi/MSH). 60 were around Harwood village and 50 at Wallington Hall on 1st (ASJ). 23 were noted over a 2km stretch of Prestwick Carr also on 1st (PCF). One to 10 were noted from six other sites.

**Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Eight were at Windmill Lane, Cramlington on 15th (LJM) and six at Plessey Woods CP on 27th (TB). Reports of four came from Haughton Strother GP (23rd) and Silverlink Biodiversity Park (25th). One to three were reported from 16 other locations.

**Greenfinch** *Carduelis chloris*

18 in a Walbottle garden was the largest gathering in the month on 23rd (KR/LR). Eight were at Barns Park, Cramlington on 1st and Prudhoe on 13th. Six visited garden feeders in Dinnington on 3rd. One to four were reported from six further sites.

**Linnet** *Linaria cannabina*

300+ were on a game crop at Haughton Strother GP on 28th (MR) and was by far the largest flock in the month with 160 at Stag Rocks on 9th (GPK) and c.100 at Mill Farm, Tweedmouth on 8th the only other flocks to reach three figures. Ten to 45 were at Fisher's Lane, Backworth, Beehive North Pond, Earsdon, Cocklawburn, Woodhorn Flashes and East Chevington.

**Twite** *Linaria flavirostris*

Only three reports during the month with four in dunes around the burn mouth at East Chevington on 4th (SPP), 40+ at Druridge Links on 18th (MSH) and 13 at Hemscott Hill on 21st (TB).



**Lesser Redpoll** *Acanthis cabaret*

Feeders at East Chevington NWT proved attractive (both to birds and photographers!) and 30 were noted on 25th (IF). Elsewhere 20 were at Steads Burn, Widdrington on 26th (AA/MH) and ten at Castle Island on 10th and Caistron on 22nd. One to six were noted from seven additional sites.



Redpolls from the East Chevington  
feeders

Top, a Lesser by Janet Dean and  
bottom  
a Mealy by Jack Bucknall

The middle photograph from 26th  
March shows a bird with plumage  
characteristic of the Icelandic race  
(TRD).

**Common (Mealy) Redpoll**  
*Acanthis flammea*

The feeders at East Chevington NWT attracted two on 16th (JBU *et al*) with an individual there on 20th (PRM).



**Common Crossbill** *Loxia curvirostris*

45 were noted in three flocks along forest edge next to Acton Fell on 5th (IK). 20 were in Thrunton Woods on 14th (JD). Six to eight were at Harwood Forest on 1st, Kielder Forest on 13th, Ray Fell on 19th and Swallow Pond on 26th. One to two were noted at Kielderburn, Blakehopeburnhaugh, where singing was noted, Thrum Mill, Craggside and Middleton.

**Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*

80 at Druridge on 31st was the largest 'charm' during the month (TRD/JD). 51 were recorded at Humshaugh. 30-42 were at Silverlink Biodiversity park and visiting feeders at East Ord, Berwick. 11-21 noted from Furnace Bridge, Bedlington, a Walbottle garden, Northumberland Park, North Shields and Prestwick Carr.

**Siskin** *Spinus spinus*

Numbers at Wark built from ten on 11th to 40-50 regularly noted between 19th-30th (PRM). 37 in a Walbottle garden was a record count for the site on 30th (KR/LR). 20 were in Thrunton Woods on 19th. Eight to 11 were recorded at Rothbury and Kielder Water.



A Goldfinch from East Chevington by Tim Dean, 6th March

**Snow Bunting** *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Two on the beach at East Chevington on 4th (SPP) had increased to 11 by 9th, presumably as birds began to return north (TD). Seven were in Blyth South Harbour on 1st (JPD/MPF *et al*) and six in Beadnell Bay also that day (IBDa/KDa). Two flew north at St. Mary's Island on 2nd and past Snab Point on 25th. A male was inland at Middle Golden Point on the Otterburn Ranges on 9th (TRD/JD).



Snow Buntings at Blyth harbour by Chris Barlow

**Yellowhammer** *Emberiza citrinella*

34 at Haughton Strother GP was the peak count in the month (MR). 22-26 were noted in the Beaconhill/Beacon Lane area of Cramlington between 1st-14th (DMc/LJM). Reports of 20 came from West House Farm, Shilvington early in the month and the Beehive North Pond, Earsdon on 2nd and 24th. A singing male was noted at Derwent Reservoir on 1st with others noted singing at Longhorsley Common, Todburn and Linton Lane NR by 23rd.

**Reed Bunting** *Emberiza Schoeniclus*

65 at Brier Dene Farm, Whitley Bay on 12th was the peak count for the month. 30 at Beehive North Pond, Earsdon on 2nd had declined to 15 by 24th (MNC). East Chevington and Prestwick Carr were the only other sites holding double figures with counts of ten at each. One to eight were recorded at 17 other sites.



A male Reed Bunting at East Chevington by Tim Dean on 19th March

**ESCAPES, HYBRIDS AND BIRDS OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN****Escapes****Lesser White-fronted Goose** *Anser erythropus*

The adult was still being seen at Hauxley from 10th to 26th (IF/LJM/IFo/CDB/PCF) and also at Cresswell Pond on 29th (IRD). As this is a long stay this is further evidence of an escape rather than of wild origin.

**Alexandrine Parakeet** *Psittacula eupatria*

The long staying individual at Hauxley was again seen on 6th (HRS).

**Hybrids****Tufted Duck x Pochard** *Aythya fuligula x Aythya ferrina*

After two last month another hybrid of this parentage was seen at Swallow Pond on 8th (SPP).

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Bamburgh Ringing Station, Berwick Wildlife Group, Hauxley Ringing Station, Natural History Society of Northumbria, North Northumberland Bird Club, Seaton Sluice Watch Tower.

### **Apologies for any accidental omissions**

### **BULLETIN COMPILATION AND PRODUCTION**

Thanks to David Sanders of NNBC for providing data.

Edited by Steve Barrett [NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com](mailto:NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com)

Mail distribution by Paul Stewart.

### **RECORD SUBMISSION**

Please email Alan Tilmouth at [ntbc.records@gmail.com](mailto:ntbc.records@gmail.com) for a copy of the standard spreadsheet and other details.

Location names and grid references: The use of standard location names and the inclusion of grid references greatly increases the value of records in subsequent analyses. A 1km square grid reference is the ideal e.g. NY8067 for Grindon Lough, but 2km square references (tetrads) are also acceptable e.g. NY86D in this case. A list of localities and their tetrad grid references (tetrad/Locality List) can be downloaded from the 'Resources & Downloads' section of the Club website at <http://www.ntbc.org.uk> – the use of these names, wherever possible, would be highly appreciated.

**Could club members ensure they to submit records direct to NTBC rather than just Birdtrack. There may be an assumption by some members this happens automatically. We do not want to miss records.**

### **ELE**

### **PHOTOGRAPHS AND ILLUSTRATIONS**

Please keep submitting your articles, photographs, sketches and illustrations for the bulletin. Thanks again to those who have supplied the excellent photographs. Please send to Steve Barrett at [NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com](mailto:NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com)

It is preferable if you re-size your photos before sending and a suggested size is 640 x 480 pixels. Please ensure you include the following information with your submissions: name, species, date taken, locality.

Photographs will not be used elsewhere without the photographer's permission.

### **MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Membership costs £30 per year. For membership enquiries please contact [ntbc@jobentley.plus.com](mailto:ntbc@jobentley.plus.com)

### **NTBC WEB SITE**

The Club website is an excellent resource for all interested in birds in the north-east. There are numerous interesting sections, including a photograph gallery, site information and trip reports together with extensive reference information for birding in our area. Please submit any new content for the website to the main club email address at [ntbcorg@gmail.com](mailto:ntbcorg@gmail.com)

### **NTBC SIGHTINGS PAGE**

The Sightings Page contains current sightings by members. Access is from the NTBC website.

Members need to submit a request to be added to the website, specifying the email address they wish to post from before they can submit sightings to [ntbcorg@gmail.com](mailto:ntbcorg@gmail.com)

### **LITTLE TERN PROJECT**

A major new five-year partnership project has been established to help little terns adapt to climate change and secure their future in the UK. This partnership, supported by the EU LIFE + programme will lay the foundations for the long-term recovery of the little tern in the UK by protecting and creating nest sites as well as increasing public awareness and support. As part of this, here on the Northumberland Coast, a partnership made up of Natural England, the National Trust, the RSPB and the Northumberland Coast AONB has been formed. This is a five-year project nationally with a 3-year sub project here in Northumberland. We will be working alongside staff at already established sites (Lindisfarne NNR and Long Nanny) as well as looking for potential new sites along the coast. Potential sites could be areas that have had interest from terns in the past but are too heavily disturbed or areas which may just have potentially suitable habitat available. We will also be working with local communities and beachgoers to educate them about shore birds and in particular, Little Terns in the hope that we can encourage them to give the birds space so they can breed undisturbed.

I will be based at the Natural England Office in Beal for 6 months (seasonal for 3 years) and welcome sightings or information regarding Little Terns on the coast here in Northumberland. We are also setting up a group for anyone interested in helping to monitor new or existing sites.

If you have any thoughts please get in touch.

Mhairi Maclauchlan

Project email: [Northumberlandlittleterns@gmail.com](mailto:Northumberlandlittleterns@gmail.com)

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# Northumberland and Tyneside Bird Club

Registered Charity No. 517641

<http://www.ntbc.org.uk/>

**Bulletin 2014 No 4**

**MONTHLY SUMMARY – APRIL**

**14th June 2014**



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## CLASSIFIED LIST HIGHLIGHTS

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Mealy Redpoll

Arctic Redpoll

Lapland Bunting

Three at Woodhorn until 2nd and a 1st W at Hoppen Kiln Flash on 15th.

One at several sites during month.

Single male at West Stobswood Pool from 12th to 16th.

Notable spring passage this year.

Male at Gosforth Park from 6th to 9th. First county record since 2004.

Popular bird at East Chevington stayed until 8th.

Single at Gosforth Park all month.

One at Arcot pond on 9th and another at Druridge Bay sites from 25th.

Single in Druridge Bay area from 25th.

Two over Gosforth on 20th and single over Newbiggin on 29th.

Singles at Long Nanny on 28th & Tosson Hill on 30th.

Three at Grindon Lough on 28th.

A small influx from 26th.

One at Tynemouth on 21st.

Single at St Mary's on 2nd.

One at Prestwick Carr on 3rd. Few reports this winter.

Notable passage during month.

Male at Lynemouth Flash on 23rd.

Large count of 13 reported at East Chevington on 3rd. One or two elsewhere.

Single at East Chevington on 3rd.

Single on Holy Island on 21st.

One of the Wryneck  
influx from late April

Whitley Bay Cemetery

by Colin Bradshaw

## COMMITTEE NEWS

### NTBC 2012-2013 ACCOUNTS

The Club Accounts were recently completed. The accounts attached to the March bulletin were for 2011-2012. The correct year's accounts will be issued shortly.

### FIELD TRIPS

The next field trip is to RSPB **Geltsdale – 25th May 2014** with Steve Westerberg

Any members who are interested in any of the above field trip please email Steve Anderson [seaswan@btinternet.com](mailto:seaswan@btinternet.com)





## INDOOR MEETINGS

The first meeting will be held 11th September. There is a great programme for the winter season.

## CLASSIFIED LIST

The following account consists of unchecked reports. The species/subspecies marked \* require descriptions.

A complete list of all sightings that need notes is included in the NTBC website [www.ntbc.org.uk](http://www.ntbc.org.uk) under the County Records Committee section and in Birds in Northumbria 2012 page 236.

The Inland and Coastal Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) tables are at the rear of the bulletin. These contain counts additional to those in the Classified List.

### Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

Peak counts were 92 at the Tweed Estuary on 13th (MHu), 67 at Killingworth Lake on 11th (LJM), 52 at New Water Haugh on 27th (MHu), and 11 at Bellasis Bridge (PCF). Seven to nine were at Big Waters, the Blyth Estuary and Greenlee Lough, and one to five at 13 further sites, including a pair attending a nest containing one egg at Bothal Pond on 20th (TD).

### Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

42 flew E over Corbridge on 5th (MR), 28 moved N at Tynemouth on 13th (DRW), and one S at St Mary's on 5th (AC). Four to six were at Buston Links, Alnmouth on 1st-2nd (TRD/JD/JPD/PAW/IF), and singles at West Ord on 9th (MHu) and Harper's Haugh, near Budle Bay on 25th (DGB).

### Goose (sp.)

A large goose (sp.) was noted at Hauxley Reserve on 21st and 26th (CDB/HRS).

### Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

A N movement was evident on 5th, with 400 at Druridge Pools (TF), 250 at Cresswell Pond on 5th (STH) and 150 at Holy Island (SJH). At Doddington, 1,750 on 10th (DGB) dropped to 14 by 21st (TRD/JD), 116 were at Hoppen Kiln Flash on 15th (MSH), 14-39 at East Chevington, Haughton Strother GP, Holy Island and Prestwick Carr between 1st-21st, and one to nine at Druridge Pools, Grindon Lough, Hauxley Reserve and Newbiggin. The last were nine at Hauxley Reserve (CDB) and two at Grindon Lough (PRM) on 26th, and two at Branton GP on 27th (IBDa/KDa).

### White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

Three Greenland *flavirostris* race birds were at Woodhorn Flashes on 2nd (ADM/AT) and a first-winter bird of the same race was at Hoppen Kiln on 15th (MSH).

### Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

500 at Budle Bay on 2nd (DGB) was the sole three-figure count, with 90 at Holywell Pond on 3rd (SPP), 52 at Hauxley Reserve on 21st (HRS), 43 at Grindon Lough on 13th (PRM), 41 at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 1st (SR), 20-27 at Calder (MRS), Low Newton (*per* NNBC) and Ridley Common (SJH), and ten to 18 at Hedgeley gravel pits, Holywell Dene and Plenmeller Common. Two to nine were also at Arcot, Bothal and Cresswell Ponds, Cocklawburn, Hexhamshire Steel, Newcastle Leazes Park, Roddam Quarry Pond, St Mary's Wetland and Woodhorn Flashes. Breeding data were as follows:

Locality	No. of broods	No. of young	Observer/ notes
Derwent Reservoir	6	42 (11,10,6,6,5,4)	IFo. On 29th-30th
Hauxley Reserve	3	16 (8,5,3)	CDB. On 26th
Haughton Strother GP	2	8 (7,1)	MR. Brood of 7 on 21st reduced to 5 by 26th. New brood of one on 26th
Low Newton	1	6	TD. On 19th
Marden Quarry	1	6	KWY. On 26th
Castron	1	3	TRD. On 16th

A Grey Lag  
Castron  
16th April by Tim Dean

### Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

Largest counts were 49 at Grindon Lough on 10th (SJH), 28 at Bothal Pond on 5th (TD), 26 at Hauxley Reserve on 26th (CDB), 23 at Newcastle Leazes Park on 9th (DM), and 11-18 at Gosforth Park NR (NHSN), Hedgeley gravel pits (DM *et al.*), Linton Ponds (CDH), Roddam Quarry Pond (JMA) and West Ord (MHu). Seven to eight were found at Arcot Pond, Druridge Pools and Ridley Common, while one to four were at Arcot Pond, Big Waters, Catcleugh Reservoir, Hexhamshire Steel, *Shasun Pharma* (Dudley), the Tweed Estuary, West Stobswood Pool and Woodhorn Flashes.



**Barnacle Goose** *Branta leucopsis*

25 flew NW at Holy Island on 1st (IK), 15 were at Low Newton on 29th (GR) and, on 30th, 60 roosted at New Water Haugh during thick fog (MHu) and 40 flew NE at Gosforth (STE).

**Brent Goose** *Branta bernicla*

Un-raced birds involved 69 at Holy Island on 2nd falling to 46 by 5th (SJH). Two dark-bellied *bernicla* race birds were at Tynemouth on 26th (CB/DRW), one remaining on 27th (CB).

**Egyptian Goose** *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

Singles, perhaps all the same individual, were at East Chevington on 8th-9th (TF/JFa/AA/MH), Druridge Pools on 11th (PHH) and 26th (CDB/JPD), and Low Newton on 14th (TD).

An Egyptian Goose at Druridge  
by Chris Barlow

**Shelduck** *Tadorna tadorna*

Five flew S at Hauxley Reserve on 21st (HRS). Numbers at Holy Island peaked at 159 on 1st (SJH), 70 were at the Blyth Estuary on 18th (LJM), 19 at Howdon on 17th (CB), 14 at Cresswell Pond (CDB), 12 at Elswick (DM), eight at Castle Island (PG), and two at Hauxley Reserve and St Mary's Wetland. Along the coastal strip seven were at Linton on 2nd (TB), four at Longhirst Flash (TD), and two at Blagdon, Bothal and Swallow Ponds, and Laverock Hall Farm. Further inland, up to six were at Grindon Lough (SJH/PRM), four at Haughton Strother GP on 23rd (MR), and two at Hexham and Powburn.

**Mandarin** *Aix galericulata*

A pair flew over Byrness on 4th (TRD/JD) and a pair was at Houxy on 12th (JR).

**Wigeon** *Anas penelope*

Variable numbers at Grindon Lough included peaks of 58 on 10th (SJH) and 17 on 27th (PRM), about 50 at Druridge Pools on 6th dropped to 15 by 15th (TD) and four by 24th (TRD/JD), 47 at Derwent Reservoir declined rapidly thereafter (IFo), and 25 were at Cresswell Pond on 11th (TRC). Five to six were also at Bothal Pond and Hauxley Reserve, and one to two at Caistron, Colt Crag and Hallington Reservoirs, and Low Newton.

**Gadwall** *Anas strepera*

Peak counts were 23 at Cooper's Kennel flash (Ashington) on 1st (JR), 20 at Caistron on 16th (TRD), 17-18 at Bothal Pond (TD), Druridge Pools (TRC) and Hauxley Reserve (CDB), and ten to 12 at Bell's Pond (Cresswell) and East Chevington (TRD/JD). Three to four were at Arcot and Linton Ponds, Branton GP, Druridge Pools, Grindon Lough, Haughton Strother GP, West Stobswood Pool and Whittle Dene Reservoirs, and one to two at Cresswell Pond, Howdon, Holy Island, Longhirst Flash, Low Newton scrape and West Hartford.

A drake Gadwall  
Hauxley  
by Chris Barlow

**Teal** *Anas crecca*

Peak counts were 116 at Howdon on 4th dropping to six by 12th (CB), 70 at Grindon Lough on 10th (SJH) falling to 18 by 27th (PRM), 53 at Druridge Pools on 11th and 52 there on 23rd (TRC), 40 at Hoppen Kiln Flash on 15th (MSH), and ten to 17 at Big Waters, Bothal Pond, Elswick, Gosforth Park NR, Hallington Reservoir, Low Newton, Prestwick Carr and West Hartford. Two to eight were at Arcot and Middle Ord Ponds, Derwent Reservoir, Longhirst Flash, West Ord and West Stobswood Pool.



**Green-winged Teal** *Anas carolinensis*

A drake was at West Stobswood Pool on 12th (IJ), and 15th-16th (TB).

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*

Apart from 112 at Bothal Pond on 5th (TD) few large groups were noted, other peak counts being 42 at Newcastle Leazes Park on 1st (DM), 34 at the Tweed Estuary on 18th (MHu), and ten to 19 at Byker, Grindon Lough, Hauxley Reserve, Jesmond Dene, Longhirst Flash, Prestwick Carr and Wark. Breeding data were as follows:

Locality	No. of broods	No. of young	Observer/ notes
Swallow Pond	2	20 (16,4)	JPD. Brood of 16 on 18th and brood of 4 on 19th
Derwent Reservoir	3	16 (8,7,1)	IFo. Brood of 8 on 10th, broods of 7 and 1 on 28th
Wallington Hall	1	12	PRM. On 19th
Arcot Pond	1-2	11-16	STH/DM. Brood of 11 on 14th and brood of 5 on 19th
Grindon Lough	1	10	PRM. On 19th
Hexhamshire Steel	1	9	RMH. On 23rd

**Pintail** *Anas acuta*

Four were at Druridge Pools on 11th (TF/JFa) and one to two there occasionally between 6th-28th (TRD/JD/JL *et al.*), four at Cresswell Pond on 15th (TRC) and one to two occasionally between 2nd-22nd (TB/PCF/TRC *et al.*), and a pair was at East Chevington on 19th (TB).

**Garganey** *Anas querquedula*

Two drakes were at Buston Links (Alnmouth) on 1st-2nd (TRD/JD/JPD) and two drakes at Cresswell Pond on 17th, with one there on 18th (TB). A pair was at Cooper's Kennel flash (Ashington) on 30th (AT). A drake was at Druridge Pools on 19th (TF/JFa). An unusual record involved a pair at Tynemouth pier/haven on 27th (CB/JPD/DRW).



A drake Garganey at Buston Links  
by Tim Dean on 1st April

**Shoveler** *Anas clypeata*

Peak counts were 32 at Druridge Pools on 2nd (JPD) and 11th (TRC), 27 on 2nd (IFo), 18 (nine drakes) on 6th (TD) and 12 regularly between 13th-28th (TRD/JD). Elsewhere, 13 were at Swallow Pond on 25th (JPD), five to six at Cresswell and Holywell Ponds (IFo/SPP) and Monks' House Pool (per NNBC), and three to four at Bothal Pond, Branton GP, Gosforth Park NR, and Hoppen Kiln Flash. One to two were at East Chevington, Holy Island Lough, Howdon, St Mary's Wetland and West Stobswood Pool. More unusually, three were at New Water Haugh (River Tweed) and Yarrow Slake (Tweed Estuary) on 15th-16th (MHu/BWG).





A Shoveler by Jack Bucknall

**Pochard** *Aythya ferina*

Peak counts were 16 at Swallow Pond on 24th (JPD), ten at Arcot Pond on 8th (LJM), nine at Hadrian's Pond on 23rd (JPD), eight at Killingworth Lake on 11th (LJM), eight at Marden Quarry on 27th (KWY), and four to six at Bothal (TF/JFa) and Burradon (JPD) Ponds. Singles were also at Druridge Pools, Gosforth Park NR, Grindon Lough and Woodhorn Flashes. More unusual was a drake, with Eiders, off Tynemouth on 30th (SPP/DRW).

**Ferruginous Duck** *Aythya nyroca*

A drake was found at Gosforth Park NR on 6th (DB/LB per NHSN) and remained until early on 9th but was often elusive.



Two views of the elusive Ferruginous Duck at Gosforth NR  
8th April by Jonathan Farooqi

**Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula*

Killingworth Lake held a peak of 73 on 11th (MSH), 42 were at Ladyburn Lake on 16th (IFo), 35 at Swallow Pond on 4th (JPD), 28 at Tynemouth Boating Lake on 18th (DRW), and 20-24 at Arcot Pond (LJM), Calder (MRS), Castle Island (PG), Gosforth Park NR (NHSN), Hauxley Reserve (HRS), Holywell Pond (SPP), Newcastle Leazes Park (DM) and QEII CP Lake (IFo). Counts of ten to 18 came from Bothal, Cresswell and Linton Ponds, Druridge Pools, Grindon Lough, Haughton Strother and Hedgeley GPs, Howdon. Shasun Pharma (Dudley) and Woodhorn Flashes. Two to nine were at Broomlee Lough, Cocklawburn Pond, Derwent Reservoir, Jesmond Dene, Monks' House Pool, Roddam Quarry Pond, St Mary's Wetland and West Stobswood Pool.

**Scaup** *Aythya marila*

A female remained at Killingworth Lake until 23rd (JPD *et al.*), and a female was at Cresswell Pond on 27th-28th (TB/ADM/TF/JFa).



**Eider** *Somateria mollissima*

86 were at the Blyth Estuary on 18th (LJM), 67 at Cocklawburn on 22nd (MHu), 25-27 at Berwick North Shore and Newbiggin (MHu/PRM), and 16-17 at Berwick pier and Blyth harbour. One to four were also at St Mary's, the Tweed Estuary and Whitley Bay, while three were on the River Tyne at Howdon on 12th (CB).

**Long-tailed Duck** *Clangula hyemalis*

Holy Island held a peak of 16 on 27th (SR/AH), and two to 13 regularly between 1st-25th (DGB/SJH/ADM *et al.*). Three were at East Chevington on 6th (TRD/JD) and singles on the north pool there on 13th and 15th (TB), and singles at Newbiggin on 5th (AT) and the Tweed Estuary on 5th and 18th (MHu). A duck was at Derwent Reservoir from 6th until the end of the month (IFo).

**Common Scoter** *Melanitta nigra*

Five flew N at Druridge Bay on 28th (JL) and six S at Newbiggin on 2nd (PRM). Peak counts were 300 at Holy Island on 18th (SR/AH), 144 at Cocklawburn on 22nd (MHu), 100 at Stag Rocks during the month (*per* NNBC), 80 at Cheswick on 28th (MHu), and 15-16 at Beadnell Bay (JPL) and Newbiggin (STH). Two were at Spittal Bay and St Mary's. A female was at Druridge Pools occasionally between 11th-13th (CDB/TD/IF *et al.*). Further inland, a pair first noted in March, remained at Haughton Strother GP on 1st, while a party of two drakes and five females was noted there on 2nd and a single drake on 5th (MR). An extraordinary record involved a pair at Branton GP on 27th, the drake of which was displaying (IBDa/KDa/TRD/JD).

**Velvet Scoter** *Melanitta fusca*

A drake was with 25 Common Scoters at Holy Island on 18th (IK).

**Goldeneye** *Bucephala clangula*

24 were at East Chevington on 2nd (IFo), and up to five remained until 24th (TRD/JD *et al.*), 16 were at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 1st (SR), 13 at a site in the north of the county on 22nd (IBDa/KDa), ten to 12 at Colt Crag and Hallington Reservoirs (JL), Grindon Lough (PRM), and New Water Haugh (MHu), and five to nine at Branton GP, Killingworth Lake and West Ord. Three to four were also at Buston Links, Cresswell and Swallow Ponds, Newton Pool and the Tweed Estuary, and one to two at Arcot, Bell's and Roddam Quarry Ponds, Broomlee Lough, Derwent Reservoir, Druridge Pools, Grindon Lough, Hauxley Reserve and Holy Island. A drake with pellet wounds was noted at a site on 2nd (TRD/JD).



A drake Goldeneye which survived a pellet attack.

By Janet Dean on 2nd April

**Red-breasted Merganser** *Mergus serrator*

Two flew N at Tynemouth on 21st (SPP) and one N at St Mary's on 19th (JPD). Peaks at Holy Island were 41 on 2nd (SJH) and 38 on 27th (AH), 12 were at East Chevington on 24th (TRD/JD) and two to seven on several other dates (IFo/NFO *et al.*), ten at Budle Point-Stag Rocks during the month (JC/*per* NNBC), nine at Cresswell Pond on 26th (JPD) and one to eight there regularly all month (MNC/TF/JFa *et al.*), and four at the Blyth Estuary on 18th (LJM). One to two were also at Berwick North Shore and Hauxley Reserve.

**Goosander** *Mergus merganser*

Four flew N at Seaton Sluice on 5th (SSWT), and one flew N at Druridge on 1st (ADMc). A WeBS count at the Tweed Estuary produced 92 on 18th when 46 were also at West Ord (MHu), 14 were at New Water Haugh on 6th (MHu), ten at Castle Island on 28th (PG), and six to eight at Cresswell Pond, Farnley and Wark. Three to four visited Airy Holm and Whittle Dene Reservoirs, the Blyth Estuary, Glen Ridley, Morpeth, Newbiggin, Swallow Pond and Thrum Mill. One to two were also at Beanley, Big Waters, Branton GP, Byrness, Calder, Carshope, Derwent Reservoir, Eals, Gosforth Park NR and Rothbury. A female with a nest containing 12 eggs was noted in a Barn Owl box at Dukesfield Hall on 23rd (RMH).

**Red-legged Partridge** *Alectoris rufa*

Eight were on Ridley Common on 8th (SJH). Five were in the Carey Burn area (Harthope Valley) on 19th (DM/STH/GB/IFo). Counts of four were made in the Carrshield area and Plenmeller Common and two were at Hepple Whitefield.

**Red Grouse** *Lagopus lagopus*

During the month 34 were in the Carrshield area and 28 were at Paxhill on 14th (SJH). In the Harthope Valley 20 were at Hawsen Burn on 19th (DM/STH/GB/IFo). Eight were at Knockburn Farm (Allendale) on 23rd (TRD/JD). One to six were noted at Coanwood Common, Hepple Whitefield, Keenley, Langleeford, Lordenshaw, Long Crag (Thrunton Woods), Riddlees Cairn and Thirlmoor Hill (Otterburn Ranges).

**Black Grouse** *Tetrao tetrix*

The peak count of 12 (11 males) were in the Carrshield area on 14th when seven (three males) were nearby at Paxhill (SJH). Six males were at Knockburn Farm (Allendale) on 23rd (TRD/JD) and four males were at Swinhope Shield on 18th (SJH). A pair was at the unusual location of Grindon Lough on 13th being a site first. A female was again seen there on 17th (PRM). Singles were also noted at Coanwood Common, Cowbyers Fell (Blanchland), Derwent Reservoir and Plenmeller Common.

**Grey Partridge** *Perdix perdix*

Three pairs were at Swallow Pond on 17th (JPD). Elsewhere pairs were noted at Allenheads, Bewick Drift (Lynemouth), Buston Links, Callerton, Cresswell Pond, Druridge Bay and Pools, East Chevington, Ellington, Holy Island, Knockburn Farm (Allendale), Linbriggs, Linden Hall, Linton, Newbiggin, Northumberland Business Park West (Cramlington), Pegswood Community Park, Plenmeller Common, St Mary's Wetland, Warkworth Lane, West Hartford and Woodhorn Flashes. A single was seen at Hemscott Hill.

**Pheasant** *Phasianus colchicus*

At Arcot Hall Golf Course 15 were present on 15th (DM) and 11 were at Prestwick Carr on 12th (PCF). Three to five were noted at Arcot Lane and Pond, East Cramlington LNR, Hartley West Farm (Holywell Dene), a Walbottle garden and at Wallington Hall.



A cock Pheasant at Wallington  
by Chris Barlow

**Red-throated Diver** *Gavia stellata*

At Seaton Sluice six flew N and 12 S from 1st-7th (SSWT). Three flew N at St Mary's Island on 22nd (JPD). Peak offshore counts were 12+ in Druridge Bay on 28th (JL), 12 at Holy Island on 8th (SR) and eight off Snab Point on 28th (JL). One to four were noted at Annstead, Budle Point, Buston links, Cheswick, Newbiggin, Newton Point, St Mary's Island, Stag Rocks, Tweed Estuary and in the Wansbeck Estuary at Castle Island.

**Black-throated Diver** *Gavia arctica*

The long-staying immature was noted until 8th at East Chevington North Pool (many observers).



**Great Northern Diver** *Gavia immer*

Singles were noted in the Blyth Estuary on 5th (TF/JFa) and in Druridge Bay on 28th (JL).

**Fulmar** *Fulmarus glacialis*

At Whitley Bay up to 18 pairs were noted nesting (JMA/IJ). 22 birds were at Tynemouth Priory on 21st and 12 were at Hartley cliffs on 23rd (SPP). 11 pairs were at Snab Point on 28th (JL). One to two were noted at the Tweed Estuary, Druridge, Newbiggin and upstream at Howdon. A "blue phase" bird flew N at Seaton Sluice on 5th (SSWT).

**Gannet** *Morus bassanus*

The peak movements were 300/h S at Berwick Pier on 6th (MHu), 300 N in 2 hours at Seaton Sluice on 14th (SSWT) and 212, mainly flying S, were noted at St Mary's Island on 22nd (JPD). At Spittal Bay 12 flew S on 5th. Two to four were noted flying past Cresswell, Newton Point and Snab Point.

**Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

At Seaton Sluice 19 flew N and 16 S on 5th (SSWT). The peak counts were 42 at New Water Haugh (River Tweed on 20th/27th (MHu), 24 at Blyth Harbour on 11th (STH), 15 at Berwick North Shore on 16th and eight in the Tweed Estuary on 18th (MHu). One to six were noted at Farnley (Corbridge), Hauxley, Gosforth Park NR, Grindon Lough, Newbiggin, Rockcliffe (Whitley Bay), St Mary's Wetland, Tyne Riverside CP (Newburn) and Whittle Dene Reservoirs.

**Shag** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

At Seaton Sluice nine flew N from 10th-11th and two flew S during the month (SSWT). At St Mary's Island six flew N on 19th (JPD). Four were at Berwick North Shore on 16th, a first-winter bird was in Blyth Harbour on 11th and one was at Newton Point on 17th.

**Bittern** *Botaurus stellaris*

One was still present at Gosforth Park NR early in the month. Sightings here in May suggest the bird remained throughout the month (NHSN).

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*

Only singles were noted during the month, at Holy Island on 4th (ADM), Tweed Estuary on 5th/6th (BWG/MHu) and Long Nanny Burn mouth on 17th (TRD).

**Great White Egret** *Ardea alba*

One was at Arcot Pond on 9th (JMa/STH). It or another was in the Cresswell/Druridge area from 25th-29th, being seen at Bell's Pond, Cresswell Pond and Druridge Pools (MSK/ADMc *et al.*).



The Great White Egret at Bell's Pond on 27th April by Jonathan Farooqi



**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*

Away from breeding sites the peak counts were six in the Tweed Estuary on 18th (MHu) and four all month on Holy Island (ADM). Ten nests were in the Hauxley area on 21st (HRS) and at least three pairs were nesting at Gosforth Park NR (NHSN). One to two birds were noted at Arcot Pond, Cresswell Pond, Grindon Lough, Hedgeley GP, Holywell Dene, Linton Pond, Newbiggin, Prudhoe, Wark and raiding a garden pond at Southfield Green (Cramlington).

**Spoonbill** *Platalea leucorodia*

One was at Druridge Pools on 25th/26th and briefly at Cresswell Pond on 26th (many observers).



The Druridge Spoonbill by Chris Barlow

**Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Peak counts were 11 at Swallow Pond on 4th (JPD), six at Gosforth Park NR throughout the month (NHSN), and four (two pairs) throughout the month at Arcot Pond (LJM) and at Hedgeley GP on 19th (DM/STH/GB/IFo). Three were at Linton Ponds on 19th (CDH). One to two were at Big Waters, Bothal Pond, Calder, Craggside, Dinnington, East Chevington, Hauxley, Holy Island, Laverock Hall Farm (Blyth), Newton Pool, Wallington Hall and Woodhorn Flashes.

**Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus*

The peak count was ten (five pairs) at East Chevington on 24th (TRD/JD). Seven were at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 18th (SR). Six (three pairs) remained throughout the month at Derwent Reservoir (IFo). Four (two pairs) were at Bothal Pond on 21st (TF/JFa). Three were at Killingworth Lake on 10th/11th (PRM/LJM). Pairs were also noted at Arcot Pond, Branton GP, Caistron, the only sighting in ten years, Colt Crag Reservoir and Hallington Reservoir. Singles were at Airy Holm Reservoir (Shotleyfield), Cresswell Pond, QEII Lake and Swallow Pond.



A pair of Great  
Crested Grebes  
Branton GP  
by Tim Dean on 2nd  
April



**Red-necked Grebe** *Podiceps grisegena*

The long-staying bird, now in summer plumage, remained at East Chevington North Pool until 6th (many observers).

**Slavonian Grebe** *Podiceps auritus*

The peak count at Holy Island was six, now in breeding plumage, on 2nd (IK/SJH). Three were still present on 6th.

**Black-necked Grebe** *Podiceps nigricollis*

Three were present at a regular breeding location in South East Northumberland by 8th. . A single was at East Chevington North Pool from 19th-24th (TF/JFa/NFO/TRD/JD).

**Red Kite** *Milvus milvus*

All records this month involved single birds; the first was a bird coming in off the sea at East Chevington and drifting North over the North Pool on 6th (JBU/IRD/TRD/JD) and presumably the same bird was seen at Linden Hall (Longhorsley) also on 6th (NFO). A bird was observed flying E/SE at Gosforth Park NR on 7th (MPF *per* NHSH). Other single birds were at Ovington on 18th (EC), Walbottle on 19th (KR/LR), Derwent Reservoir on 21st (IFo), Prudhoe on 24th (IJ) and flying over the A1 on the outskirts of Morpeth on 30th (PRM).

**Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*

The East Chevington area had the majority of sightings with up to three birds present throughout the month. These birds were also noted in Druridge Bay at Cresswell Pond and Druridge Pools (TB/ADM/MJC) on several dates. Away from the Druridge area at Longhirst Flash (TD) and Thrum Mill (Rothbury)(JD), Gosforth Park NR and Holy Island on 26th (NHSN/MJC) and at the River Aln Estuary at Alnmouth on 28th (TF).

**Goshawk** *Accipiter gentilis*

Three sightings of single birds from near Hepple on 8th (JD), in Upper Coquetdale on 10th (TRD/JD) and a bird flew NW over the observer's house being mobbed by Jackdaws *Corvus monedula* on 29th (AJR).

**Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*

Pairs were seen regularly throughout the month at Gosforth Park NR (NHSN) and Scotland Gate (SLB/MSK). Other pairs were noted at Cramlington on 15th (DM) and at Marden Quarry (Whitley Bay) on 18th (KWY) and two single birds were seen at East Cramlington LNR on 16th (STH). Singles birds were noted at 16 further sites during the month.

**Common Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*

Six birds were noted at Wark on 10th (MNC) and at Prestwick Carr on 19th (PCF), four were at Fisher Lane (Cramlington) on 5th (LJM) and three were in the Hawsen Burn (Harthope Valley) on 8th (CDB). One to two birds were noted at 18 sites.

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetuss*

Two birds were observed on the nest at Kielder from Mounce's viewpoint on 4th (TRD/JD), single birds were at Melkridge Village on 6th (SJH), Derwent Reservoir on 6th & 9th (IFo) and at Steel Rigg on 20th (MRS).

**Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus*

Two pairs were present at Gosforth Park NR throughout the month (NHSN). Three birds were at Swallow Pond on 1st (JPD) and Holy Island Lough on 21st (SR/AH). Two were at Branton GPs on 5th (IBDa/KDa) and singles were noted at Arcot Pond, Cresswell Pond, Prestwick Carr and West Hartford.

**Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*

Numbers were down this month with highest counts of 18 at Howdon on 21st (CB) and 10 at Woodhorn Flashes on 2nd (PRM); these were the only counts in double figures. Seven birds were at Hauxley NWT on 21st (HRS), six were at St Mary's Wetland on 6th (IJ) and five were at Grindon Lough on 19th (PRM). 33 birds at Swallow Pond on 26th was the highest count (JPD) followed by 18 at Howdon on 24th (CB). One – four birds were at 9 other sites during the month.

**Coot** *Fulica atra*

45 were at Killingworth Lake on 10th (PRM), 20 were at Bothal Pond on 5th (TD), 15 were at Linton Pond on 19th (CDH), 14 at Arcot Pond on 8th (DM) and up to 10 were at Arcot Pond on several dates (DM). One to eight birds were at 11 sites.

**Crane** *Grus grus*

Two adult birds flew North at Gosforth Garden Village on 20th (MJC) and a single bird was seen at Newbiggin on 29th (AT).

**Avocet** *Recurvirostra avosetta*

Up to nine were noted at a confidential site during the month. Birds were present at Cresswell Pond throughout, with a peak of five noted on 11th (TF/JFa) and 26th (CDB). Nearby Druridge Pools also attracted birds with one on 6th (TD/NFO/TRD/JD) and two on 9th (AA/MH). Two were also seen at Warkworth gut on 19th (NFO) and a single flew in from the N at Bothal Pond, circled the pond and then headed S on 11th (TF/JFa).



Avocets mating  
Cresswell  
by Chris Barlow

**Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus*

Coastal flocks included 200 at Holy Island on 4th (SJH), 71 at Cresswell Pond on 26th (CDB), 56 at Berwick North Shore on 16th (MHu), 48 at Cocklawburn on 8th (MHu), 37 at Tynemouth on 7th (KWY) and 16 on the Tweed Estuary on 18th (MHu). Many breeding pairs were also reported, the highest numbers being seven pairs at Ridley Common on 8th, four pairs at Fell House Farm area (Plenmeller Common), three pairs at Carrshield and Coanwood Common, and two pairs in the Alwin Valley, Hedgeley GP and Paxhill (near Allenheads) (SJH/JR/DM). Six to 12 were also noted at Eals village, Grindon Lough, Haughton Strother GP, Hauxley NWT and Rockcliffe (Whitley Bay). Breeding was also proven at Redesmouth bridge and one to five were reported from a further 13 locations.

**Golden Plover** *Pluvialis apricaria*

Up to ca.500 were present in the Fell House Farm area of Plenmeller Common area during 8th-11th with many well marked black birds suggesting they were Northern race (SJH). A passage flock of 320 were resting in an arable field at Carterway Heads on 17th (IFo) and 259 were counted at Paxhill (near Allenheads) on 14th (SJH). Counts of 200 were made at both Nedderton (near Bedlington) on 1st-2nd (TB) and Prestwick Carr on 6th (PCF). Two groups (24 and 125) totalled 149 at Coanwood Common on 8th (SJH) and 74 were counted at Backworth on 15th (SPP). Holy Island also attracted a peak of 35 on 24th (MJC) and the majority of the aforementioned birds are all most likely Northern race birds.

Elsewhere, ca.20 were also present at Grindon Lough on 5th (PRM, 12 were at Cresswell Pond on 17th (TB), ten were on territories at Hexhamshire Common on 18th (MJC) and smaller numbers were seen at Carrshield (nine display flying), Knockburn Farm (Allendale) (nine), Linden Hall (one overhead), St Mary's Wetland (a single) and Whitelee Moor (Redesdale) (two).

**Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*

Several counts from Holy Island included 22 on 3rd (SJH) and 50 on 26th (TF/JFa), with a single flying N at St Mary's Island on 14th the only other report (JBu).

**Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus*

Some 90 nesting/displaying pairs were counted at Acton Moor (Allendale) and 26 pairs (some with young/eggs) on Acton Fell (Blanchland), both on 22nd (ASJ). Coanwood Common also held a group of 16 plus additional territorial/incubating birds on 11th (SJH). Further counts of 12-14 came from Druridge Pools, Grindon Lough and Hauxley NWT, whilst reports of two to eight birds also included potentially breeding pairs at the following sites: Bothal Pond, Cocklawburn, Darras Hall, West Stobswood Pool and Woodhorn Flashes.

**Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius*

Reports of one to four birds at seven to nine confidential sites during the month, with one to two at Cresswell Pond between 2nd-6th (ADM/JPD *et al.*), two at Seghill Flash on 19th (JPD/MPF/AS), two at Bothal Pond on 28th (ADM) and a single at Lynemouth Flash on 23rd (TRC).



**Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*

Peak counts from Holy Island included 62 on 1st, 45 on 3rd and 29 on 5th (SJH) and one to six were noted at Beadnell Flash, Caistron (display), Cheswick, Cresswell Pond, Derwent Reservoir, Grindon Lough, Hedgeley GP, Ingram, Milkhope Lake (Blagdon) and the Tweed Estuary, whilst display was noted at The Ouze (Holy Island) on 1st (IK).

**Dotterel** *Charadrius morinellus*

One flew low heading N over the Long Nanny on 28th (GR) and a female was seen and heard singing (briefly) before moving on at Tosson Hill on 30th (MJC).

**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*

A good sized flock lingered in fields at Druridge Pools late in the month, with 19 on 23rd (TRC) increasing to a maximum of 55 on 28th (ADMc). Elsewhere, single-figure reports were the norm, the first being singles at St Mary's Wetland on 21st (IJ/TRC), Boulmer on 22nd (BDa/KDa) and over Linden Hall on 22nd (NFO). East Stobswood Pool attracted six on 24th (TRD/JD), five were at both Cresswell Pond (ADMc) and Warkworth Lane on 28th (JL), and four were on Holy Island on 24th (MJC). One to three were also seen/heard at Cocklawburn, East Chevington, Tynemouth and Widdrington Moor Lake.

A Whimbrel flies in to Druridge Pools  
by Tim Dean on 24th April

**Curlew** *Numenius arquata*

Counts at Holy Island involved 200 on 2nd and 250 on 5th (SJH), whilst inland Prestwick Carr attracted a peak of 48 on 10th (PCF). A flock of 52 flew over Holywell Pond on 3rd (SPP). Additional near-coastal/coastal groups included 42 on the Tweed estuary on 18th (MHu) and 30 at both Druridge Pools on 11th (TRC) and Warkworth Lane on 13th (TB).

Eleven nesting pairs were counted on Acton Moor (Allendale) on 22nd (ASJ); counts of up to ten birds including display were noted at Grindon Lough during the month (PRM) and three pairs were at Carey Burn on 8th (IRD). One to three birds, including single pairs, were also reported from Arcot Pond, Berwick North Shore, Brocolitia, Cramlington (Damdykes Farm), Howdon, Longhorsely Moor, Wark (River North Tyne), Newcastle Business Park (Tyne), West Hartford, West Stobswood Pool and Woodhorn Flashes. On the 21st at Holy Island, five emigrating parties, of eight to 30 birds, were noted heading off E-NE rising high and calling excitedly before disappearing over the horizon (IK).

A Curlew in low sun

Holy Island by Chris  
Barlow



**Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa*

Peaks of nine occurred at Cresswell Pond on 6th (NFO/ADMc) and Druridge Pools on 26th (ADMc/JPD/AS) with fewer numbers present at both sites on several dates throughout the month. Elsewhere, five flew S at St Mary's Island on 6th (JBU), three landed briefly in fields adjacent to Swallow Pond on 26th (SPP) and two were noted at Bothal Pond (28th), Holy Island (14th) and West Hartford (19th), and single birds were also at Blyth Estuary (18th), Doddington (21st), East Chevington (16th), East Stobswood Pool (23rd), Hoppen Kiln Flash (15th) and Swallow Pond (1st).

**Bar-tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica*

The majority of birds were reported from Holy Island where 385 were counted on St Cuthbert's Island on 26th (TF/JFa) and 28-52 were counted in the area on three dates early in the month (SJH). Some 20 were noted at Boulmer on 28th (JMA), six were at Low Newton on 14th (TD), four were at Hauxley on 2nd (IFo) and flying N at St Mary's Island on 14th (SPP), whilst one to three also seen at Cresswell Pond, Newton, Seaton Sluice and the Tweed Estuary.

**Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*

A count of 100 was made at Boulmer on 28th (JMA), 37 were at Cresswell Pond on 15th (TRC) and around 35 were at Newbiggin on 2nd (PMR). The other reports involved 14 or fewer at Berwick, Cheswick, Cocklawburn, R Tweed Estuary, St Mary's and Whitley Bay.

**Knot** *Calidris canutus*

High-tide roosts in the north accounted for both records: about 100 at St Cuthbert's Island on 19th (IK) and around 250 at Ross (Black Law) on 22nd (IK), all in winter plumage.

**Ruff** *Calidris pugnax*

Druridge Pools attracted one on 5th/6th then four on 8th (TF/JFa *et al.*) and two were at Cresswell Pond on 9th (SJH). Two were at Low Newton scrape on 14th, three on 15th and two on 17th (TD/IBDa/KDa *et al.*). Singles appeared at East Chevington on 15th, at Beadnell Flash on 17th, Budge Fields on 24th, near Cresswell Pond on 26th and at Warkworth Lane (Ellington) on 28th.

**Sanderling** *Calidris alba*

Approx. 90 were noted at Beadnell Bay at some time during the month (*per* NNBC) and St Mary's held 77 on 14th, 81 on 24th and 62 on 28th (SPP/JPD). Cocklawburn had a peak of 43 on 11th and 32 were at Cheswick, Black Rocks on 8th (MHu) with 20 in Whitley Bay on 6th; ten or fewer were noted at Boulmer, Blyth Harbour, Newbiggin and Newton.

**Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*

About 500 flew N across the flats at St Cuthbert's Island on 19th (IK) and Holy Island had up to 180 in the first week (SJH). The most at Cresswell Pond was 25 on 2nd, 19 probable passage migrants were at Coanwood Common on 8th, ten at Boulmer on 28th and ten at Newbiggin on 2nd. Up to four were at Grindon Lough in the last week and one to three were seen at Druridge Pools, R Tweed Estuary and St Mary's.

**Purple Sandpiper** *Calidris maritima*

At Tynemouth the peak count was of 21 on 18th (DRW) and at Newbiggin it was 15 on 21st with also 15 at Holy Island on 1st; 11 were at Seaton Sluice on 3rd. Five were at Whitley Bay on 6th and five at St Mary's on 22nd.

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*

The first were two near Rothbury and one at Hedgeley GP on 11th (JD), closely followed by singles at Twizell on 13th (SVM/AJM) and at Derwent Reservoir on 15th (IFo). It was fairly widespread by 26th, including five at Ingram on 19th, four at Eals village on 18th and four in upper Coquetdale on 26th. One or two were reported from another 12 localities from 16th.



A Common Sandpiper by  
Jonathan Farooqi



**Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*

All reports relate to singletons: at Hedgeley on 2nd and 8th, at Woodhorn Flashes on 2nd, Haughton Strother GP on three days 8th to 15th, Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 14th and 18th and at Seghill Flash on 19th.

**Spotted Redshank** *Tringa erythropus*

One was at Warkworth Gut on 2nd (JPD), Cresswell Pond hosted singles on 9th (SJH) and 23rd/24th (TRC *et al.*) and one was at Alnmouth on 28th (TF).

**Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*

The first of the year was at Cresswell Pond on 9th (SJH) and another was there on 23rd/24th. Other reports of singles came from Holy Island on 14th, West Ord on 18th, East Chevington on 24th, Branton GP, Druridge Pools and Warkworth Lane on 28th and Lindisfarne NNR on 29th.

**Redshank** *Tringa totanus*

In the first week 400-500 were regularly noted at Holy Island (SJH), 206 were in the R Tweed Estuary on 18th (MHu), 98 on 2nd was the peak at Howdon, 57 were at St Mary's Wetland on 6th, 44 at Cresswell Pond on 9th and 30 at Boulmer on 28th. Display was witnessed at Blanchland, Carrshield, Coanwood Common, Grindon Lough, Hollin Green, Plenmeller Common and Ridley Common and birds were present in several other potential breeding areas. Small numbers were also noted at another ten places, mostly near the coast.

**Jack Snipe** *Limnocyttus minimus*

Singles showed at Howdon on 4th and 6th (CB/JH) and one was at Hadrian Pond on 12th (JPD).

**Woodcock** *Scolopax rusticola*

Again five records of singles were received: at Holy Island on 4th (ADM), at Swallow Pond on 5th (JPD), 'roding' at Grindon Lough on 26th (PRM), at Longhorsley Moor on 29th (AB/LB), and during the month at Gosforth Park NR (NHSN).

**Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*

Most reports involved display from Allendale, Blanchland, Carrshield Moor, Coanwood Common, Grindon Lough, Hollin Green, Longframlington Common, Nubbock Fell, Paxhill, Quarry House Moor and Plenmeller Common. Ten were at Arcot Lane Flash on 8th, up to eight at Gosforth Park NR and adjacent pool and up to seven at Swallow Pond. Four or fewer were noted at a further 12 typical locations.

**Arctic Skua** *Stercorarius parasiticus*

One was in Budle Bay on 17th (JC) and one was off Newbiggin on 21st (AT).

**Great Skua** *Stercorarius skua*

One was off Newbiggin on 21st (AT).

**Auk** *sp*

Very few records came from Seaton Sluice up to 14th (SSWT).

**Puffin** *Fratercula arctica*

During a sea watch at Newbiggin on 21st, 39 were recorded (AT).

**Razorbill** *Alca torda*

The sea watch at Newbiggin on 21st recorded 162 passing (AT) and the only other record was of two at Cocklawburn on 22nd (MHu).

**Guillemot** *Uria aalge*

Three were at Buston Links (Alnmouth) on 1st (TRD/JD) and singles were noted elsewhere at Newton Point on 17th (TRD) and Whitley Bay on 20th (IJ).

**Black Tern** *Chilidonias niger*

A rare inland spring sighting of this uncommon passage visitor comprised three feeding over Grindon Lough on 28th (BG per IK).

**Sandwich Tern** *Sterna sandvicensis*

The earliest sightings this month of this returning summer visitor were four at Beadnell (JPL) on 3rd, seven at Holy Island (SJH) and a single at Tynemouth (SPP) on 5th and four at Bamburgh Stag Rocks (DGB) on 8th, but the peak passage period, noted at Seaton Sluice, was from 10th-14th when 50 moved N (SSWT). The maximum counts elsewhere from 10th onwards were 41, mainly moving S, at St Mary's Island on 19th (JPD/MPF/AS) with 30 there on 13th (JBu), 23 at East Chevington on 11th (TF/JFa) and 12-15 at Berwick (Meadow Haven), Lindisfarne NNR and in the River Tweed Estuary (IBDa/MHu). One to six were recorded from 11th onwards at 12 other coastal localities from Tynemouth-Berwick, North Shore.

**Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*

The first birds of the season were seen on 21st when four were at East Chevington North Pool (NFO); eight were present there on 24th (TRD/JD) and elsewhere on the same day two were at the Gosforth Park NR (NHSN), two at Tynemouth (CB)

and one flew NE over Cramlington (DM). Killingworth Lake held ten on 29th (JPD) with one to four at Arcot Pond from 27th-29th (DM/LJM).

#### **Arctic Tern** *Sterna paradisaea*

Two at Newbiggin on 21st (AT) were the first arrivals and the only other records were a single at Berwick Little Beach on 27th (MHu) and two on the Black Middens (Tynemouth) on 28th (CB).

#### **Kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla*

By far the largest gathering was witnessed on the cliffs at the Tynemouth Priory where 200+ were counted on 21st, rising to more than 300 on 30th (SPP). A survey at the Newcastle Quayside breeding colonies on 3rd revealed 139 on the Tyne Bridge North Tower, 44 on the Quayside buildings, 30 on the Guildhall and 15 on the actual Tyne Bridge (DM). Elsewhere, the River Tweed Estuary held a maximum of 22 on 18th (MHu) and nine were at Howdon on 4th (CB); an 'unusual' raft of 20 birds was offshore at Buston Links (Alnmouth) on 1st (TRD/JD). One to three were at two other localities.

#### **Black-headed Gull** *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

An impressive concentration was present on the Budge Fields at Druridge Pools on 2nd when 1,000+ birds were recorded (JPD/MPF/AS); other significant gatherings elsewhere comprised 468 at Branton GP on 19th (IBDa/KDa) and 350 at Grindon Lough on 5th (PRM). 15-60 were at Broomlee Lough, Gosforth Park NR (14 pairs preparing to nest), Hauxley NWT and West Stobswood Pool with one or two at three other sites.

#### **Little Gull** *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

First-summer birds, possibly involving a single individual, were reported from Cresswell Pond, East Chevington and Warkworth Lane from 26th-29th (JPD/JL/ADMc).

#### **Mediterranean Gull** *Larus melanocephalus*

The summer departure left few birds in the county. A maximum of two, an adult and a first-summer, were at Newbiggin on 3rd-5th (STH/ADMc), two adults were at Boulmer on 13th (AH) and two, an adult and a second-summer, flew W at West Stobswood on 13th (IF). Single immatures were also reported from Cresswell Pond and St Mary's Island on 5th-6th with one remaining at Newbiggin on 21st (DM).

#### **Common Gull** *Larus canus*

The maximum recorded movement at Seaton Sluice totalled 300 S in two hours on 7th (SSWT) and ca.100 were at Elsdon on 5th (JR); the only other record was 42 at Grindon Lough on 16th (SJH).

#### **Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus graelsii*

Swallow Pond held good numbers throughout the month with maxima of 30 on 5th (SPP) and 53 on 23rd (JPD). Elsewhere, the monthly maximum at West Hartford was 26 on 15th with eight in the gull roost in the River Tweed Estuary on 5th (MHu) and in Leazes Park on 11th (DM). One to six were noted at nine other localities namely Arcot Pond, Coanwood Common, Cramlington, Elswick Wharf (River Tyne), Hedgeley GP, Jesmond Dene, Keenley, Prestwick Carr and Whitley Bay.

#### **Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus argenteus*

An impressive 467 were found during a WeBS survey of the River Tweed Estuary gull roost on 18th (MHu) and 111 were recorded at Swallow Pond on 12th (JPD). Other gatherings of 10-75 were at Berwick North Shore, Elswick Wharf (River Tyne), Leazes Park, St Mary's Wetland, West Hartford and Whitley Bay (Rockcliffe).

#### **Iceland Gull** *Larus glaucooides*

A second-summer bird at Tynemouth on 7th was the only record (KWY).

#### **Great Black-backed Gull** *Larus marinus*

At Grindon Lough on 17th ca.25 were present on 17th (PRM) and ten were recorded during a WeBS survey on the River Tweed Estuary on 18th (MHu). One to three were at four other coastal localities.

#### **Rock Dove** *Columba livia*

Present in unspecified numbers at Jesmond Dene on 5th and Rockcliffe Whitley Bay on 6th (MJCo/IJ).

#### **Stock Dove** *Columba oenas*

A game crop at Houghton Strother attracted 32 on 8th (MR), 11 were at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 26th (TB), eight at Cresswell Pond on 18th (TB), six at Marden Quarry (Whitley Bay) also on 18th (KWY), five at Jesmond Dene on 5th (MJCo) and one to four at 12 other widespread localities.

#### **Woodpigeon** *Columba palumbus*

During the month 50-100 were at Holywell Dene (RJP), 28 the highest count at Howdon on 30th (CB), 20 at St Mary's Wetland on 6th (IJ), 11 at Jesmond Dene on 5th (MJCo) with three at Walbottle and two fledged young at Chapel House on 28th.

#### **Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*

Four were at Dinnington on 24th (PCF), two in the observer's garden at Walbottle on 6th (KR/LR), a pair mating at Kenton on 18th (MRS) and one returned to an old Hartley garden after many months absence (RJP).



**Cuckoo** *Cuculus canorus*

The first calling birds were at Longhorsley Moor and Beacon Hill (Morpeth) on 23rd (AB/LB/MP) with two at Simonside on 24th (IRD) and one at Grindon Lough on the same date (PRM). The peak count was five from Tosson Hill to Simonside on 30th (MJC) with singles at Catcleugh, Derwent Reservoir, Wingates on 29th and Snods Edge (near Shotley Field) on 30th.

**Barn Owl** *Tyto alba*

Breeding was confirmed at Slaley with a nest containing five eggs on 23rd having hatched two when revisited on 24th (RMH) and at Holy Island on 22nd (IK). All other reports were sadly singles at Cresswell on 26th & 28th (TRD/JD/MSK/NEWT), Earsdon on 18th (PRF), Haughton Strother GP on 17th (MR), Holywell Dene on 26th (RJP) and Red Row Estate on 6th (JPD).



A Barn Owl after a successful hunt  
Cresswell  
by Tim Dean  
28th April

**Little Owl** *Athene noctua*

A pair were at Beacon Lane (Cramlington) on 13th (DM) and two at East Stobswood Pool on 15th (TB) all other reports being singles at or around both these locations on various dates and at Haughton Strother GP on 17th (MR) and Paxhill (near Allenheads) on 18th.

**Tawny Owl** *Strix aluco*

At least three nesting pairs were found around Powburn (PH), one pair at Gosforth Park NR (NHSN) and an adult with four young ringed at Hauxley Ringing Station. Two males called at Wark (R N. Tyne) on 9th (PRM) and Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 19th (TB) with singles roosting in a nest box at Stamfordham on 14th (EC) and at Ellington, Fulbeck & Kirkhill (Morpeth), Grindon Lough and Haughton Strother GP.

**Long-eared owl** *Asio otus*

One hunted successfully at a confidential site in the SE of the county on 24th (DM).

**Short-eared Owl** *Asio flammeus*

Two were at The Snook (Holy Island) on 4th with one found dead there on 20th probably the result of a raptor strike (MJC/ADM). Singles were also at West Hartford on 1st & 2nd (GM/LJM), Howdon on 2nd (CB), Prestwick Carr on 26th (PCF) and again at Holy Island on 27th and 29th.

**Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*

At Rothbury two were present on 11th with one on 7th and nearby at Thrum Mill on 17th (JD). All other reports were singles at Haughton Strother GP on 10th (MR), Holywell Dene (RJP) and Jesmond Dene (MJCo) both on 29th.

**Wryneck** *Jynx torquilla*

A well watched individual was at Whitley Bay Cemetery from 26th to 28th (JBU/AC *et al.*) with a second/third bird found there (AS/JPD/MPF) and at St Mary's wetland (SPP) on the latter date. One was also in a garden further inland at Wilton Drive (West Monkseaton) on 27th (JE) and at Chare Ends (Holy Island) on 30th (SR).

A photogenic Wryneck at Whitley Bay  
by Jack Bucknall

**Green Woodpecker** *Picus viridis*

Three were at Wark on 10th (MNC) and a pair at Gosforth Park NR during the month (NHSN). Singles were reported from both these sites on other dates and at Allen Banks, Arcot, Bellingham, Bywell, Crooked Oak (near Derwent Reservoir), Gosforth Garden Village, Haughton Strother GP, Hepburn Woods, Shotley Bridge, Slaley Hall / Forest and Steel Hall (Hexhamshire).

**Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major*

During the month four were at Gosforth Park NR (NHSN) and at Swallow Pond on 4th (JPD) with two in an Old Hartley Garden and nearby Holywell Dene (RJP), at Northumberland Park (North Shields) on 18th (MNC), Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 19th (TB) and Valley Park (Cramlington) on 24th (DM). More than one was at Scotland Gate with singles also at four locations in Cramlington and six other sites in the south of the county.

**Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*

Holy Island had two birds present all month (ADM) and two birds were also noted at Grindon Lough on 20th (PRM) and at Tynemouth on 26th (KWY). Singles were at ten sites throughout the month.

**Merlin** *Falco columbarius*

All sightings involved single birds, with birds on or near the coast at Holy Island on several dates (ADM/IK/SJH), Tynemouth on 13th (DRW) and St Mary's Island on 28th (JPD/MPF/AS). Singles were also noted at seven inland sites.

**Peregrine** *Falco peregrinus*

A pair was at an undisclosed site throughout the month (*per* NNBC). Single birds were seen at Cresswell Pond and Pilgrims' Way (Lindisfarne) on 2nd (TB/IK), over Otterburn Mill café on 4th (TRD/JD), Druridge Pools & East Chevington on 6th (JPD/TRD/JD), Warkworth Gut on 9th (AA/MH), Tynemouth on 13th (DRW) Swallow Pond on 16th (SPP), in the Upper Coquetdale on 17th (IRD), Holy Island on 24th (MJC) and one soaring above the Theatre Royal (Newcastle) on 29th (MSK).

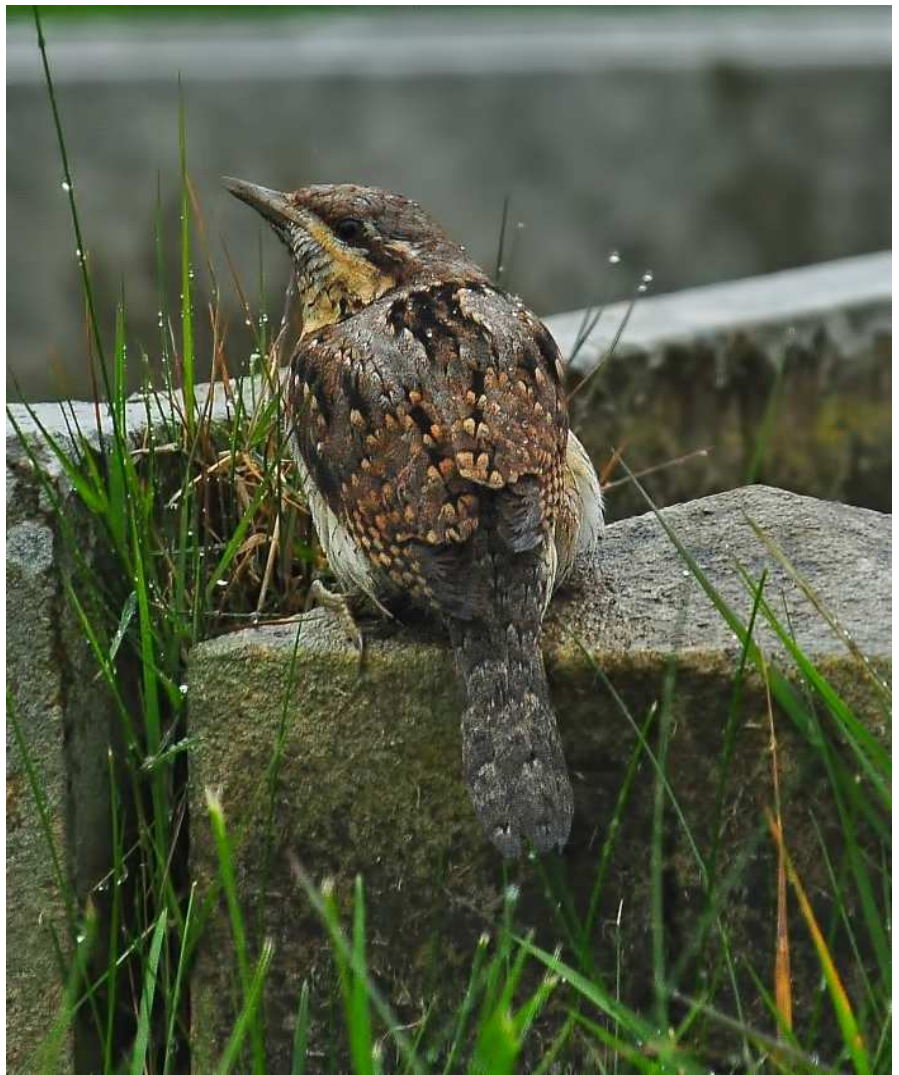
**Magpie** *Pica pica*

A pre-roost gathering at dusk of 15 at Valley Park (Cramlington) on 4th (DM), 14 the high count at Howdon on 12th (CB) with five at Jesmond Dene on 5th (MJCo) and two to three at St Mary's Wetland (IJ).

**Jay** *Garrulus glandarius*

Five were at Gosforth Park NR during the month (NHSN) and more than two seen daily at Scotland Gate (SLB/MSK). Two were at Arcot Hall, Benridge Moor, Big Waters, Bolam Lake CP, Holystone, Jesmond Dene, Longhorsley Moor, Swallow Pond, Thrunton Woods, Ulgham and Woolsington with singles at seven other widely spread localities.

A Jay at Woolsington on 23rd April  
by John Littleton





**Jackdaw** *Corvus monedula*

The maximum monthly count at Howdon was 26 on 28th (CB) with six at Jesmond Dene on 5th (MJCo), in the observer's garden at Walbottle throughout the month (KR/LR) and two at St Mary's Wetland on 6th (IR).

**Rook** *Corvus frugilegus*

At St Mary's Wetland on 6th 10 were present (IR) with a single visiting feeders in the observer's garden at Woolsington regularly during the month (SRB). Ten nests were noted at Ponteland on 22nd and 23 at Walbottle on 23rd (KR/LR).

**Carriion Crow** *Corvus corone*

Movement north was noted at Seaton Sluice with 33 on 10th (SSWT), 32 the peak count at Howdon on 12th (CB), ten at St Mary's Wetland on 6th (IJ) and four at Jesmond Dene on 5th (MJCo). Two occupied nests were found at Longhorsley Common on 11th and Longhorsley Moor on 13th (AB/LB).

**Hooded Crow** *Corvus cornix*

At 9.00h on 21st one flew across the Tyne at Tynemouth landing briefly on the north pier (DRW).

**Raven** *Corvus corax*

Two were at Holy Island on 3rd & 11th (AH/IBDa/KDa) and at Fullhope (Upper Coquetdale) on 10th (TRD/JD) Coanwood Common on 16th (SJH) Alwinton on 19th (RB/MB), Carey Burn on the same date (DM/STH/GB/IF) and near Ingram Glidders (Cheviot) on 20th (NFO). Singles were at Holy Island on four dates and eight upland locations.

**Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus*

Passage noted with more than 25 at Newbiggin on 2nd (PRM) and 17 at Holy Island on 4th (MJC/ADM) with six the peak count at Tynemouth on 3rd, four at Woodhorn Flashes on 2nd (PRM) and two at Cresswell Pond on 1st (TB). One to two were at 12 other widely spread inland locations.

**Firecrest** *Regulus ignicapillus*

One was found on the first mound at St Mary's Island on 2nd (SPP *et al.*).



The St. Mary's Firecrest  
2nd April  
Jack Bucknall

**Blue Tit** *Cyanistes caeruleus*

Three was the highest monthly count in a Walbottle garden (KR/LR) with two at Jesmond Dene on 5th (MJCo) and nest building in the observer's garden at Fulbeck (Morpeth) till 26th when incubation started (TD).

**Great Tit** *Parus major*

The highest count was nine in Jesmond Dene on 5th (MJCo) with seven at Prestwick Carr on 18th (PCF) and a pair in a Walbottle garden regularly (KR/LR).

**Coal Tit** *Periparus ater*

Garden feeders attracted six all month at Tynemouth (CB) with four at Jesmond Dene on 5th and Prestwick Carr on 8th with one to three in gardens at Old Hartley & Walbottle and at Grindon Lough.

**Willow Tit** *Poecile montanus*

A pair and a single were at Prestwick Carr on 1st (PCF) with a pair visiting an Old Hartley Garden regularly and nearby in Holywell Dene (RJP), and at Linden Hall, Longhorsley Moor and Common (ASJ/AB/LB/NFO/MP). Singles were at Big Waters, Branton GP, Snods Edge (near Shotley Field), singing regularly at Swallow Pond, West Hartford and Brierdene (Whitley Bay).

A Willow Tit  
East Chevington  
Eddie Douglas  
29th April

**Marsh Tit** *Poecile palustris*

Two pairs, one feeding young, were at Ordley on 23rd (AJR), three at Nunnykirk on 28th (TRD/JD), two at Scotch Gill Woods (Morpeth) (SRB) and singles at Linden Hall (Longhorsley) and Thrum Mill / Old Railway Line (Rothbury) on various dates.

**Bearded Tit** *Panurus biarmicus*

Two males were at a confidential site in North Northumberland (AH/SR/IK) all month with the single male remaining at East Chevington until at least 15th.

**Skylark** *Alauda arvensis*

Singing birds on territory numbered ten at Acton Moor (Allendale) on 22nd (ASJ), eight at Carey Burn on 8th (IRD), UK Coal Potland Burn on 17th (LJM) and Prestwick Carr on 28th (PCF) with six at Cowbyers Fell (Blanchland) on 22nd and St Mary's on 24th. One to four were at six other locations.

**Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia*

Many high counts generally over water as birds fed up prior to breeding with 450 at East Ord (Berwick) on 22nd (MHu) and counts over 70 on two other dates, 250 at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 10th (SR), 100 over sewage works at Alnmouth on 13th, 80 at Capheaton on 18th (TF) with 24-52 at Arcot Pond, Branton GP, Breamish Valley, Eals Village, Haughton Strother GP, Low Newton Scrape, Lynemouth Flash and Twizel (near Ogle). One to 20 were at 22 other widespread localities.

**Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*

Also well reported with 150 the peak count at West Ord (Berwick) on 22nd (MHu), 80-100 at Swallow Pond on 26th (SPP), 50 at Arcot Pond on 27th (LJM) and 25 at Prestwick Carr on the same date (PCF). Ten to 20 were also at Holy Island, Tyne Riverside Park (Prudhoe), Wark and Marden Quarry (Whitley Bay). One to eight were at 27 other locations.

**House Martin** *Delichon urbica*

The first returning bird was seen on 11th at Harthope Valley (SVM/AJM) with the next sighting one at Holywell Dene on 14th (RJP) then 17th when singles were at Branton and Low Newton Scrape (IBDa/KDa/TRD) the first multiple counts being three at Longframlington and two at Arcot, both on 19th. Numbers at Killingworth Lake of 40+ on 29th (JPD) pipped West Ord (Berwick) 36 on 30th (MHu) for the high count with 30 at Swallow Pond on 25th (JPD) and one to six at 14 other widespread locations.

**Long-tailed Tit** *Aegithalos caudatus*

Four to five were noted at Arcot Pond, Byker, Jesmond Dene and Tynemouth and one to three at a further seven localities, including Walbottle where a pair were nest building on 13th.

**Wood Warbler** *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Two very early males were singing at Allen Banks on 19th (MJC) and another was at Ordley on 23rd (AJR). A passage bird was found at Prior's Park (Tynemouth) on 26th (KWY).

**Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita*

An influx during the first few days of the month produced 26 at Holy Island on 4th, declining to 11 by 6th (MJC/ADM) and 17 at Bamburgh on 5th (BRS). Later in the month there was a further arrival at Holy Island which peaked at 25 on 24th (MJC) with 12-18 noted to the end of the month. Birds established in breeding areas included 19 at Swallow Pond on 5th (JPD), 12 at Beacon Hill (Longhorsley) on 14th (ASJ) and ten+ at Allen Banks on 19th and at Bolam Lake on 16th. In addition five to seven were noted at Arcot Hall GC, Arcot Pond, Blagdon, Crowhall Lane (Cramlington), East Chevington, Holywell Dene, Jesmond Dene, Longhorsley Moor, Marden Quarry, Newbiggin, Prudhoe, Thrunton Woods, Valley Park (Cramlington) and Whitley Bay. One to four were reported from a further 38 widespread and potential breeding localities.



**Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus*

One at Prestwick Carr on 1st was an early arrival (PHH), numbers here increasing to 23 by 11th (PCF). At Beacon Hill (Longhorsley) there was an increase from 12 singing males on 14th to 43 by 29th (ASJ) and 25 were at Swallow Pond by 23rd (JPD). The species was widespread from mid-month with counts of 11-20 from Branton, Cramlington (Village Green), Cramlington (Windmill Lane), East Cramlington LNR, Tosson Hill-Simonside and Wingates. Elsewhere five to ten were reported from Arcot, Grindon Lough, Howdon, Linden Hall, Longhorsley Moor, Melkridge, Steel Hall (Hexhamshire), Thrunton Woods, Tynemouth and Warkworth Lane. One to four were noted at a further 37 localities. Coastal passage was witnessed at Holy Island where there were 22-23 on 24th and 26th, 18 on 28th and 47 on 29th (MJC).

**Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*

Allen Banks produced an excellent return of 30+ singing males on 19th (MJC). Up to 11 were noted at Swallow Pond during the month (JPD), and ten at Scotch Gill Woods (Morpeth) included three displaying pairs (LJM). Further counts from breeding areas included eight at Gosforth Park NR, six singing males at Tyne Riverside CP (Prudhoe), five+ at Bolam Lake and five at Arcot Hall GC, Crowhall Lane (Cramlington), Castlehills (Berwick), Farnley Haughs (Corbridge), Jesmond Dene and Linden Hall. Passage birds noted at Holy Island included nine on 24th (MJC) and six to eight from 26th-29th. One to four were reported from a further 41 widespread localities.

**Garden Warbler** *Sylvia borin*

The first, at West Ord (Berwick) on 20th (MHu) was followed by singles at Farnley (Corbridge), Haughton Strother GP (Humshaugh) and Prudhoe from 21st-23rd. Three were at Branton GP on 27th (IBDa/KDa) and at Holy Island on 29th (MJC) and further singles at Beacon Hill (Longhorsley), Berwick, Ord Garden Centre (Berwick), Rothbury and Wingates.

**Lesser Whitethroat** *Sylvia curruca blythi*

There was a significant arrival on Holy Island at the end of the month with a peak of 20 on 27th (SR/AH) and counts of nine to 14 on all dates from 26th-30th. Four at Tynemouth on 27th included one taken by a Sparrowhawk (CB) and four were at St Mary's Island on 29th (JPD). Two were reported from High Newton on 26th, Low Newton on 15th and Swallow Pond on 23rd while singles were seen and / or heard at Arcot Pond, Castle Island, Cramlington (Northburn/Village Green/Whitelea), East Chevington, Holywell, Holywell Dene, Howdon, Laverock Hall Farm (Blyth), Newbiggin and Rothbury.

**Whitethroat** *Sylvia communis*

An early arrival was at Newcastle Great Park on 9th (PHH). Further singles were near Holywell and at Woodhorn Flashes on 18th and at Berwick and Prestwick Carr on 20th. Two at St Mary's Island on 21st had increased to five by 25th (ASJ) and five were at Ellington on 26th (TB). Up to four were noted at Holywell Dene during the month and on Holy Island on 27th, while three were at Druridge Pools and Swallow Pond on 26th and Tynemouth on 27th. One to two were noted at a further 14 localities during the final week of the month.

**Grasshopper Warbler** *Locustella naevia*

The first was at Arcot Pond on 10th (PRM) with two singing birds here by 13th (STH). Another was at Prestwick Carr on 11th, numbers here increasing to five by 21st (PCF). Further 'reeling' males included four at Cramlington (Beaconhill) on 22nd (STH), three to four at St Mary's Island on various dates from 18th-30th (ASJ/TRC *et al.*), up to three at East Chevington from 16th-28th (IK *et al.*) and three at Swallow Pond on 18th-19th (JPD). Elsewhere two were 'reeling' at West Hartford and singles were noted at Acomb Fell, Bambergh, Budle Bay, Cramlington (Village Green), Cresswell Pond, Druridge Pools, East Cramlington LNR, East Sleekburn, Gosforth Park NR, Grindon Lough, Holy Island, Low Newton and Woodhorn Flashes.

A grasshopper Warbler reels  
Jack Bucknall  
17th April

**Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

The first of the year were singles at Gosforth Park NR and Woodhorn Flashes on 18th (NHSN/AT), followed by two at East Chevington and one at East Ord (Berwick) on 19th. Five were at Backworth Pond and at Holy Island on 29th (MNC/MJC), the latter including four singing males at the Lough. Four at Cresswell Pond on 25th included three singing males and two were singing at Hauxley NR on 21st. Elsewhere singles were noted at Arcot Pond, Branton GP, Druridge Pools, Low Newton, Prestwick Carr, Rothbury and West Ord (Berwick).



**Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

The first returning bird was noted at Gosforth Park NR on 18th (NHSN). Further singles were at Holywell Pond on 23rd, Holy Island (Lough) from 26th-29th and Cresswell Pond on 28th. More unusual was a singing bird at Derwent Reservoir on 29th, presumably a migrant as there is no suitable breeding habitat in the area (IFo).

**Waxwing** *Bombycilla garrulus*

One was at Prestwick Carr on 3rd (PCF).

**Nuthatch** *Sitta europaea*

Five were reported from Wark (North Tyne) on 10th (MNC), four + at Wallington Hall on 19th and four at Ulgham Lane on 26th, while one to two were also noted at Allen Banks, Arcot Hall GC, Beacon Lane (Longhorsley), Berwick, Chugdon Wood (Ellington), East Ord, Farnley (Corbridge), Holystone, Holywell Dene, Jesmond Dene, Nunnykirk and Rothbury.

**Treecreeper** *Certhia familiaris*

One to three were noted at Allendale, Alnwick, Ellington, Holystone, Nunnykirk, Scotch Gill Woods (Morpeth) and Wallington.

**Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes*

A 2km stretch at Prestwick Carr produced 22 on 18th, while ten singing males at Haughton Strother (Humshaugh) was the highest count here since the harsh winter of 2009-2010 (MR). Elsewhere, eight singing birds were noted at Longhorsley Moor on 15th (AB/LB), four were at Holy Island on 4th and one to two at a further four localities.

**Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*

A large murmuration of 2,000-3,000+ was a daily event at Great Whittington during the month (ALT) and on most nights attracted the attention of two Peregrines. The only other report of note was of 100 at Prestwick Carr on 1st.

**Dipper** *Cinclus cinclus*

A total of 13 pairs had been located in Upper Coquetdale by the end of the month (JR) and three broods were noted at Alwinton on 19th (RB/MB). Breeding was also confirmed at Allen Banks where a pair were feeding young on 19th (MJC) and at Jesmond Dene (Waterfall). One to two were also reported from the River Derwent (Allensford-Shotley Bridge and Allensford-Derwent Gorge), Eals Village, the Harthope Valley (Carey Burn, Langley Burn and Langleeford), Holywell Dene, Mitford, Nunnykirk and Thrum Mill (Rothbury).

**Ring Ouzel** *Turdus torquatus*

Holy Island held the following during the final week of the month;

23rd	24th	25th	26th	27th	28th	29th
1	4	3	8	5	10	9
ADM	MJC	ADM	MJC	SR	MJC	MJC

Further passage birds were at Woodhorn Flash on 2nd, St Mary's Island (male) and High Newton on 26th, Newbiggin on 27th and Howdon (perhaps two), St Mary's Island (female) and Warkworth Lane on 28th. One at Grindon Lough on 19th (PRM) was unusual; while in traditional breeding areas up to eight were reported from the Harthope Valley (JPD/MPF/ASw) and singles near Shillmoor on 5th and Makendon (Upper Coquetdale) on 10th.

A Ring Ouzel  
Harthope Valley  
14th April  
Jonathan Farooqi

**Blackbird** *Turdus merula*

A total of 73 (90% males) were found during a 4km walk at Horton Burn (Cramlington) on 26th (LJM). Light passage was noted on Holy Island at either end of the month, with 30+ on 4th and 18 on 26th (IK/MJC). One to seven at a further seven localities included three fledged juveniles in a Whitley Bay garden and adults collecting food at Kenton on 18th and nest building at Walbottle on 7th.



**Fieldfare** *Turdus pilaris*

An influx was noted at Holy Island, where numbers increased from 120 on 3rd (SJH) to 600+ on 4th (MJC/ADM) many of these arriving on a SE wind; over the next couple of days numbers declined to 200 on 5th and 123 by 6th. Later in the month the island witnessed another influx which produced a single flock of 200+ on 26th (TF/JFa). During the earlier period there were signs of inland movement with flocks of 70-76 reported from Airy Holm Reservoir, Ingram, Ridley Common and Wark (North Tyne). Elsewhere during the month there were counts of 20-30 from Bebside, Linden Hall, Prestwick Carr and Thockrington, while one to 18 were noted at a further 11 localities. The final report of the month was 15+ at Holy Island on 29th (MJC)

**Song Thrush** *Turdus philomelos*

Holy Island held ten on 4th and again on 26th (ADM/MJC). Eight were in the Harthope Valley on 19th (ASJ), five at Jesmond Dene and Arcot Hall GC and four at Newcastle (Leazes Park). Singles were also noted at Howdon and Longhorsley Common.

A Song Thrush  
Rothbury  
17th April  
Tim Dean

**Redwing** *Turdus iliacus*

30 at Holy Island on 4th had declined to ten by 6th (MJC/ADM). Elsewhere 12-15 were reported from Branton GP and Woodhorn Flashes on 2nd, nine E at Fulbeck (Morpeth) on 5th and eight at Blakehopeburnhaugh on 4th. One to three at a further six localities included the final bird of the month at Holy Island on 28th.

**Mistle Thrush** *Turdus viscivorus*

Six in Jesmond Dene on 5th was the highest count (MJCo). Elsewhere, one to four at a further nine localities included a nest at Ellington (TB) and a bird collecting food at Swallow Pond (MRS).

Mistle Thrush  
Hepple Whitefield  
9th April  
Janet Dean

**Robin** *Erithacus rubecula*

At Holy Island, 25 on 4th had declined to only four by 6th (MJC/ADM), while later in the month four to eight were noted on three dates from 21st-26th. The only other reports concerned 11 singing males at Longhorsley Moor on 15th (AB/LB) and four in Jesmond Dene on 5th.

**Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula hypoleuca*

The first arrival was a female at Holy Island (Vicar's garden) from 25th-27th (ADM). A male was in breeding territory at Nunykirk on 28th (TRD/JD).



**Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochruros*

The bird found at Holy Island (Snook) on 31st March remained until 4th April (IK/CB/SJH). Singles were also at Chibburn Links (Druridge) and Buston Links (Alnmouth) on 2nd (IRD/PAW/IF), Tynemouth on 3rd (CB) and the Blyth Estuary and Lynemouth on 5th (TF/JFa/TB). Later in the month further singles were noted at St Mary's Island and Whitley Bay Cemetery on 26th (JBU/AC) and Holy Island on 29th (MJC).

**Redstart** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

An early male on breeding territory at Haughton Strother GP (Humshaugh) on 8th was the first arrival (MR). A total of 11 singing males were located between Beacon Hill (Longhorsley) and Simonside on 29th (ASJ); three singing males were at Bolam Lake on 16th, at Allen Banks on 23rd and at Haughton Strother GP on 29th and three passage birds were at Holy Island on 27th and 30th. From mid-month, one to two were reported from breeding areas at Acomb Fell, Allendale, Hedgeley, Holystone, Linden Hall, Nunykirk, Prestwick Carr, Rothbury and Thrunton Woods and one was also at Woodhorn Flashes. Further passage birds were singles at Whitley Bay Cemetery on 27th and at Tynemouth from 29th-30th.

**Whinchat** *Saxicola rubetra*

The first arrivals were two on breeding grounds in the Harthope Valley on 21st (JPD/MPF/ASw). Two were at St Mary's Island on 23rd and a single here from 27th-29th. Further singles were noted at Acomb Fell on 26th, Tughall on 28th and Holy Island and West Hartford on 29th.

**Stonechat** *Saxicola torquatus*

Two pairs at East Chevington on 28th included one pair feeding two fledged young, an indication of very early breeding (IK). Four were noted at Warkworth Gut on 19th while one to two were also reported from coastal areas at Boulmer, Buston Links, Cresswell Pond, Druridge Pools and Newbiggin. There was an encouraging increase from inland, upland areas where pairs were noted at Carey Burn and Hawsen Burn (Harthope Valley) and Whitelee Moor (Redesdale) and singles at Simonside and Tosson Hill.

**Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Very well reported this month, particularly from coastal areas. The highest counts were a total of 53 between Lynemouth and Druridge on 24th (ASJ), 34 on Holy Island on 27th (SR/AH) and 32 between Druridge Pools and East Chevington on 26th (CDB). Up to 20 were noted at St Mary's Island on 24th, 18 were at Swallow Pond on 17th, 17 at Amble on 27th, 16 at Newton Links on 26th and 15 at Holy Island on 18th. Inland, ten were at Usway Burn (Upper Coquetdale) on 13th and five to six at Alwinton, East Woodburn and Grindon Lough. Five were also at Blyth Cemetery on 29th. One to four were reported from a further 19 widespread coastal and inland localities.

Birds showing characteristics of the **Greenland race** *O.o. leucorhoa* where, three at Holy Island (Sheldrake Hole) on 17th (IK), two at Holy Island on 26th (TF/JFa), two at Grindon Lough on 27th (PRM) and one at Newbiggin on 28th (IK).

An alert Wheatear at Druridge  
24th April by Tim Dean

**Dunnock** *Prunella modularis*

Up to four were in a garden at Old Hartley during the month (RJP). Three in another garden at Walbottle on 6th (KR/LR), two in Jesmond Dene on 5th and one at St. Mary's Wetland on 21st.

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*

Few records received in the month; 21 at Dinnington on 12th (PCF) was the peak count. 20 (10 pairs) from the Battlesteads Hotel (Wark) on 5th (CB) and 11 from the Trent House Beer Garden (Newcastle) on 1st (DMc) provided a spring bias toward locations serving beer! Eight were at Tynemouth on 12th and one at St. Mary's Wetland on 21st.

**Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus*

Haughton Strother Gravel Pits provided the peak count on 14th with 22 (MR) though numbers at Cresswell weren't far behind with 19 on 26th including 6 breeding pairs (CDB). Elsewhere 12 were at Ancroft on 26th and eight at both Swallow Pond and in a garden at Walbottle. One to six were at eight other locations.

**Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava flavissima*

The first arrivals of Spring were a flyover at Beacon Hill (TF/JFA) and two at Hoppen Kin Flash (MSH) on 15th. Singles were at Cresswell Pond (16th/17th) and Druridge Pools on 16th, Beadnell Flash on 17th, Holy Island on 18th and two at Druridge Pools on 19th. Eight were at Whittle Dene Reservoirs by 19th and this increased to 12 on 23rd. Seven other sites recorded one to three by the month's end.





**'Blue-headed' Wagtail** *Motacilla flava*

A male was photographed at Lynemouth Flash on 23rd (TRC).

**Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*

Counts from suitable breeding areas included ten pairs in Upper Coquetdale by 30th (JR), six at Allen Banks on 19th (MJC) and in the Harthope Valley on 21st (JPD). Pairs were noted from Craggside, Blakehopeburnhaugh, Wark, Holywell Dene, Richardson Dees Park, Wallsend and Newcastle City Centre with singles at a further seven sites.

**Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla alba yarrelli*

22 were on Holy Island on 4th (ADM), 12 were in Tynemouth Park on 20th. 10 were in an evening roost at Gosforth Park mid-month and 10 at West Stobswood Pool on 12th. 28 pairs were located in Upper Coquetdale by 30th (JR). One to eight were at a further 10 localities during the month.



Above, a Pied Wagtail at Hepple Whitefield by Janet Dean on 8th April and below a White Wagtail at the coast by Jack Bucknall

**White Wagtail** *Motacilla alba*

Well-reported during the month, a single at Druridge Pools on 8th the first of many. Holy Island held the highest number with eight noted on 18th and 26th (STH/TFa/JFa). Six were at Mill Farm (Tweedmouth) on 16th, four at Cresswell Pond on 13th and 17th and St. Mary's on 14th. One to three were at a further 16 mainly coastal localities.

**Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis*

An individual displaying at Beacon Hill on 19th was the first of the year (ASJ). No more were recorded until 23rd when singles were at Steel Hall and Slaley Forest. Another was a Thrunton Woods on 26th and further singles were at Nunnykirk and Holy Island on 28th. On 29th two were again at Holy Island and well inland at Catcleugh while eight were displaying in the Wingates area on that day.

**Meadow Pipit** *Anthus pratensis*

100+ at St. Mary's Island (JPD) and ca.70 at Newbiggin on 2nd (PRM) were presumably on passage. Further indications of movements through the county came from Plessey Woods CP on 10th with 15/hour moving north, 20/hour moved NW over Gosforth Garden Village on 10th, with 30/hour there on 12th and 20/hour again on 16th (MJC). Inland breeding areas such as Ridley Common produced counts of 30 (8th), Coanwood Common held 30 (11th) and 40 (16th) including many displaying. 25 were at Gimmerknowe (Rothbury) on 12th.

**Rock Pipit** *Anthus petrosus*

Three males displayed at the castle on Holy Island on 1st (IK) and one at Rockcliffe (Whitley Bay) on 4th, 6th and 20th (IK).

**Brambling** *Fringilla montifringilla*

Numbers much reduced as a result of birds returning to breeding grounds this month resulted in a peak count of just six at the favoured site at Wallington on 14th (DLo). One-two were noted inland at Corbridge (8th), Haughton Strother Gravel Pits (14th), Beacon Hill (21st), Riding Mill (24th). On the coast two were at Holy Island on 21st and one there on 25th/26th, Prior's Park, Tynemouth (26th) and finally Whitley Bay Cemetery on 28th.

**Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs*

70+ at Haughton Strother Gravel Pits on a game crop on the 8th was the largest flock recorded (MR). 23 were found over 2km at Prestwick Carr on 18th and 18 still at Wallington on 14th. 10 were at Longhorsley Moor on 15th and three-nine were at Jesmond Dene, Holywell Dene and Walbottle.

**Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Six in Holywell Dene during the month was the most significant gathering (RJP). On 5th five were at Windmill Lane (Cramlington) and four at Battlesteads Hotel (Wark). One to three were noted from Buston Links, Scotland Gate, Rothbury, Howdon, Prestwick Carr, Walbottle, East Chevington, Marden Quarry, Ulgham Lane, Linton Ponds and three sites in Cramlington.

**Greenfinch** *Carduelis chloris*

11 in a Walbottle garden on 20th was the only count received in double figures (KR/LR). Three were at Jesmond Dene (5th) and two at Holywell Dene (20th) and St. Mary's Wetland (21st).

**Linnet** *Linaria cannabina*

200 were noted on Buston Links on 1st (TRD/JD) and 180+ on a game crop at Haughton Strother Gravel Pits on 8th (MR) though this had reduced to 40 by 15th. In the south-east at Holywell 110 were present on 8th and 55 were at Brier Dene Farm (Whitley Bay) on 15th. One-13 were at five other localities.

**Lesser Redpoll** *Carduelis cabaret*

Well reported in small numbers during the month though a flock of 100 on a game crop at Haughton Strother Gravel Pits on 26th (MR) was by far the largest flock recorded. 22 were at Prestwick Carr on 8th and both Beacon Hill (29th) and Grindon Lough (20th) held flocks of 10. 27 were in the Harthope Valley on 21st (JPD). One-eight were recorded at 15 other localities.



A Redpoll at East Chevington  
by Tim Dean on 13th April

**Common (Mealy) Redpoll** *Carduelis flammea*

13 visited the feeders at East Chevington NWT on 3rd (IRD). Two were with Lesser Redpolls at Haughton Strother Gravel Pits on 26th and one was at Corbridge on 14th.

**Arctic Redpoll** *Carduelis hornemanni*

One was at East Chevington NWT on 3rd (IRD).

**Common Crossbill** *Loxia curvirostris*

A large flock by recent standards of ca.60 was in Slaley Forest on 23rd (RMH). 15 were in Thrunton Woods on 26th. Seven flew south at Prestwick Carr on 6th. One to five were noted from traditional areas at Holystone, Kielder, Harbottle, Craggside and Simonside during the month.



**Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*

14 at Newbiggin on 2nd (PRM) was the largest charm. 12 were at Melkridge on 8th and Prestwick Carr on 18th. On 2nd 10 were at Woodhorn Flashes with the same number in an Alnwick garden on 3rd and a Walbottle garden on 20th. One-nine were at ten other sites during the month.

**Siskin** *Spinus spinus*

A flock of ca.50 at Wark on 5th (PRM) was the peak count in a month where the species was well reported. Other counts reaching double figures included 15 at Berwick (1st) and Melkridge (10th), and 10 at Caistron on 16th. Six-eight were at Bolam Lake CP, Valley Park, Cramlington, Kirkhill, Morpeth and the Battlesteads Hotel at Wark.

**Snow Bunting** *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Three at the Long Nanny on 1st (DGB) was the only report during the month and may turn out to be the final report of the 'winter'.

**Lapland Bunting** *Calcarius lapponicus*

One on Holy Island on 21st (SR) was the sole report in the month.

**Yellowhammer** *Emberiza citrinella*

At West Ord eight on 6th and again on 13th feeding around sheep troughs increased to 18 on 22nd providing the largest count in the month (MHu). Elsewhere seven were at Branton on 19th and six at Buston Links, East Chevington and Seaton Point (Boulmer) during the month. One to five were at 10 other sites.

**Reed Bunting** *Emberiza Schoeniclus*

An impressive count of 17 at St. Mary's on 28th (ASJ) included 13 males. Elsewhere nine at East Chevington on 3rd was the most anyone could muster; seven males were singing at Prestwick Carr on 5th. Gosforth Park and West Hartford both had six males holding territory/singing in the month. One to five were at six other sites.

**ESCAPES, HYBRIDS AND BIRDS OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN****Escapes****Lesser White-fronted Goose** *Anser erythropus*

The adult was still being seen with sightings at East Chevington on 13th (TRD/JD and Hauxley on 26th (CDB). Its long stay further evidence of an escape rather than of wild origin.

**Hybrids****Canada Goose x Greylag Goose** *Branta canadensis* x *Anser anser*

A single hybrid was noted at Leazes Park on 9th (DM).

**Tufted Duck x Pochard** *Aythya fuligula* x *Aythya ferrina*

The continued run of sightings of this hybrid continued with one at Swallow Pond on 5th (JPD/MPF/AS) and presumably the same individual at Killingworth Lake from 10th to 14th (CDB/IF/PRM). It also visited Gosforth Park during the month (NHSN).



The hybrid Tufted Duck/Pochard at Killingworth Lake by Chris Barlow

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Bamburgh Ringing Station, Berwick Wildlife Group, Hauxley Ringing Station, Natural History Society of Northumbria, North Northumberland Bird Club, Northeast Cetacean Project, Northern Experience Wildlife Tours, Seaton Sluice Watch Tower.

## Apologies for any accidental omissions

## BULLETIN COMPILATION AND PRODUCTION

Thanks to David Sanders of NNBC for providing data.

Proof reading was by Mike Smith.

Edited by Steve Barrett [NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com](mailto:NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com)

Mail distribution by Paul Stewart.

## RECORD SUBMISSION

Please e-mail Dick Myatt at [ntbcorg@gmail.com](mailto:ntbcorg@gmail.com) for a copy of the standard spreadsheet and other details.

Location names and grid references: The use of standard location names and the inclusion of grid references greatly increases the value of records in subsequent analyses. A 1km square grid reference is the ideal e.g. NY8067 for Grindon Lough, but 2km square references (tetrads) are also acceptable e.g. NY86D in this case. A list of localities and their tetrad grid references (tetrad/Locality List) can be downloaded from the 'Resources & Downloads' section of the Club website at <http://www.ntbc.org.uk> – the use of these names, wherever possible, would be highly appreciated.

Could club members ensure they to submit records direct to NTBC rather than just Birdtrack. There may be an assumption by some members this happens automatically. We do not want to miss records.

## PHOTOGRAPHS AND ILLUSTRATIONS

Please keep submitting your articles, photographs, sketches and illustrations for the bulletin. Thanks again to those who have supplied the excellent photographs. Please send to Steve Barrett at [NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com](mailto:NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com)

It is preferable if you re-size your photos before sending and a suggested size is 640 x 480 pixels. Please ensure you include the following information with your submissions: name, species, date taken, locality.

Photographs will not be used elsewhere without the photographer's permission.

## MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Membership costs £30 per year. For membership enquiries please contact [ntbc@jobentley.plus.com](mailto:ntbc@jobentley.plus.com)

## NTBC WEB SITE

The Club website is an excellent resource for all interested in birds in the north-east. There are numerous interesting sections, including a photograph gallery, site information and trip reports together with extensive reference information for birding in our area. Please submit any new content for the website to the main club email address at

## NTBC SIGHTINGS PAGE

The Sightings Page contains current sightings by members. Access is from the NTBC website.

Members need to submit a request to be added to the website, specifying the email address they wish to post from before they can submit sightings to [ntbcorg@gmail.com](mailto:ntbcorg@gmail.com)

## WEBS COUNTER NEEDED FOR CAISTRON NR

One of the county's best inland sites is becoming available in September 2014. If anyone is interested in taking on the site which involves carrying out monthly counts of all the waterbirds, please contact Steve Holliday on 01670 731963 or email at [steveholliday@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:steveholliday@hotmail.co.uk)

## NORTHUMBERLAND BIRD ATLAS

Are you colour blind?

We are currently studying the distribution maps for the forthcoming Northumberland Bird Atlas, and need to assess any problem there might be for people who are red-green colour blind, so we need a volunteer to view a sample map. If you can help with this, please will you contact Muriel Cadwallender, email [tomandmurielcadwallender@hotmail.com](mailto:tomandmurielcadwallender@hotmail.com) or on 01665 830884.



COASTAL WEBS COUNTS: NORTHUMBERLAND

APRIL 2014

2014		APRIL																	
Site	TOTAL	Berwick North Shore (including Little Beach)	Berwick Little Beach	Tweed Estuary	Tweed: A1 By-Pass to Horncliffe	Spittal - Cocklawburn	Lindisfarne NNR (including Budle Bay)	Seahouses - Beadnell	Howick - Boulmer	Boulmer - Alnmouth	Ain Estuary	Amble - Chevington	Cresswell - Newbiggin	Newbiggin - Cambois	Blyth Estuary	St Mary's Island	Tyne North Pier - Fish Quay	Redheugh - Scotswood Bridge, (north bank)	Scotswood - Newburn Bridge, (north bank)
Counter		MHu	MHu	MHu	TB	MHu	AC	MLC	JAR	AB	TAC	TW	MGA	RC	LJM	SP	DMT	PF	PF
Date		16	16	18	20	22	20	20	17	23	15	17	27	20	18	20	19	27	27
Red-throated Diver	10						5				2					5			
Little Grebe	4						2												
Cormorant	114	15		8	9	2	16		8	1	5	3	2		16	21	6	2	
Shag	11	4					6									1			
Grey Heron	29			6	6		8	1		2	2	1	1			1		1	
Mute Swan	168			82	16	2	21	9				28			9	2		8	
Whooper Swan	3											3							
Greylag Goose	10			1	2	3										4			
Canada Goose	14				7						7								
Shelduck	382						300	125	31	26	18					2		5	
Wigeon	13										13								
Gadwall	6																		
Teal	55				4		14			2	12					6			
Mallard	135	2	2	34	40		2	7		2	22				4	12		2	8
Tufted Duck	9						3				3					3			
Eider	740	25		4		67	243	14	121	35	71	12	34		6	86	22	14	
Long-tailed Duck	8			1			6	1											
Common Scoter	150					144				2						4			
Goldeneye	20			4	3		13												
Red-breasted Merganser	22	2		2			9	2		3		2			4				
Goosander	121			92	22						4				3				
Moorhen	13						2									8			
Coot	9						3		1		3					2			
Oystercatcher	823	56	8	16	16	32	404	85	74	23	47	4	33	6	5	28	68	9	2
Ringed Plover	150			2		2	99		9	33						5			
Golden Plover	15															15			
Grey Plover	86						62		2	22									
Lapwing	129						9				17					103			
Knot	17						7		1	8	1								
Sanderling	99						11		17	1		21	15			32			
Purple Sandpiper	30								17	5		3				3	2		
Dunlin	651			2			532		14	50	10	16	2			25			
Shipe	6															6			
Black-tailed Godwit	1														1				
Bar-tailed Godwit	315						273		1	32		6			3				
Wimbrel	2						1												
Curlew	650	2		42	1	1	440	25	61	3	2	33			12	53			
Redshank	1,229	14		206	1	1	419	90	78	21	37	136	4	4	11	170	125	2	
Turnstone	293	12	2	2			43		75	22	41	38	1			12	43	4	
Black-headed Gull	391	2					215		26	2	24	31			91				
Common Gull	11						10		1										
Lesser Black-backed Gull	67			3			8		6										
Herring Gull	1,290	22	2	467	13	26	194		107		4	16			153		1	38	
Great Black-backed Gull	114	3		10		2	4				2	12			36		26	5	1
Kittiwake	236	3		22		1			205								5		
Sandwich Tern	54	5	2	2		4	30					2							
TOTALS - WILDFOWL	2,046	48	2	234	109	218	653	151	138	69	113	134	39	0	6	122	114	20	10
- WADERS	4,496	86	12	270	18	36	2,300	200	341	166	200	107	26	16	226	478	17	0	2
- GULLS & TERNS	2,163	35	4	504	13	33	461	0	369	2	0	61	0	0	291	0	225	116	23





# Northumberland and Tyneside Bird Club

Registered Charity No. 517641

<http://www.ntbc.org.uk/>

**Bulletin 2014 No 5**

**MONTHLY SUMMARY – MAY**

**4th July 2014**



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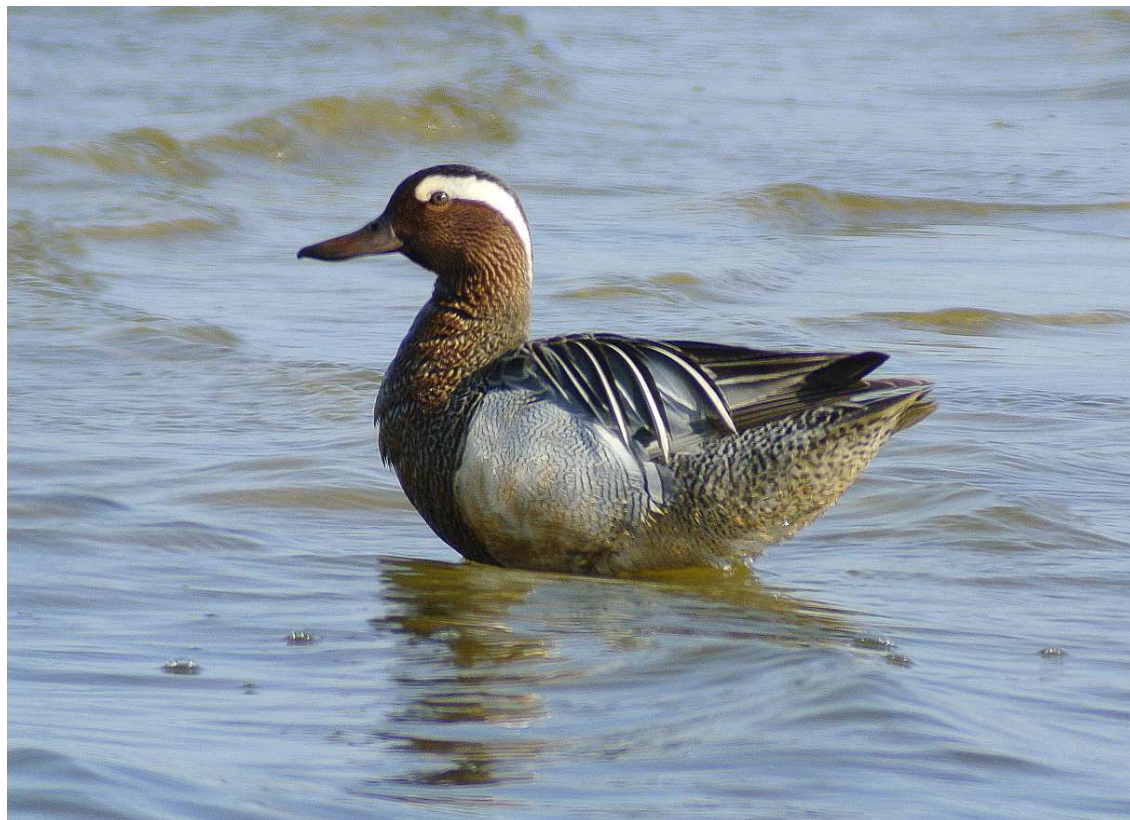
Field Trips

Indoor Meetings

Classified List

WeBS Coastal

WeBS Inland



A popular drake Garganey  
Cresswell Pond  
31st May  
Neil Osborne

## CLASSIFIED LIST HIGHLIGHTS

Great White Egret

Spoonbill

Black Kite

Rough-legged Buzzard

Crane

Dotterel

Curlew Sandpiper

Temminck's Stint

Little Stint

Pectoral Sandpiper

Lesser Yellowlegs

Long-tailed Skua

Black Tern

Ring-billed Gull

Iceland Gull

Wryneck

Hobby

Red-backed Shrike

Woodchat Shrike

Eastern Bonelli's Warbler

One at Druridge Pools until 6th and again on 21st.

Noticeable influx from mid-month.

One flew E over Weldon Bridge on 3rd.

A late bird in Ingram Valley on 26th.

One over Newbiggin on 3rd and another at Corbridge on 13th.

Five on top of Cheviot on 6th.

Unusual in Spring, one at Boulmer on 19th and one at Cresswell Pond on 27th.

Singles at Lynemouth Flash on 7th and at Hoppen Kiln flash on 17th and 21st.

Two at Boulmer on 19th and one at Budle Bay on 27th.

Single spring migrant at Hoppen Kiln flash from 6th to 10th.

One at Beadnell flash from 8th to 10th.

An adult passed Seaton Sluice on 27th.

Scarce this spring, single at St Mary's on 13th.

An adult briefly on the sea at St Mary's on 2nd.

Juvenile at Beadnell Bay on 13th.

One at Newbiggin on 21st.

Singles at Ponteland and Simonside.

Influx late in month.

Single at Hemscott Hill on 5th and 6th.

One at Newbiggin on 3rd, first county record.

## COMMITTEE NEWS

**Awaited**

## INDOOR MEETINGS

The first meeting will be held on 11th September. There is a great programme for the winter season.

## CLASSIFIED LIST

The following account consists of unchecked reports. The species/subspecies marked \* require descriptions.

A complete list of all sightings that need notes is included in the NTBC website [www.ntbc.org.uk](http://www.ntbc.org.uk) under the County Records Committee section and in Birds in Northumbria 2012 page 236.

The Inland and Coastal Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) tables are at the rear of the bulletin. These contain counts additional to those in the Classified List.

### Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

A peak of 186 was noted at the Tweed Estuary on 16th (MHu), 52 were at Killingworth Lake on 21st (LJM), 47 at New Water Haugh (River Tweed) on 7th (MHu), and 14-24 at Big Waters, the Blyth Estuary, Capheaton and West Ord. One to five were at 13 further sites, including nesting pairs at Bothal (nest abandoned) and Burradon Ponds, Broomlee Lough, and Marden Quarry (two nests just 5m apart). Broods were noted as follows:

Locality	No. of broods	No. of young	Observer/notes
Howdon Wetland	1	9	CB. On 18th
Derwent Reservoir	1	8	JPD. On 31st
East Chevington	1	8	JPD. On 17th
Gosforth Park NR	1	5	NHSN. By end of month

### Swan (sp.) *cygnus* (sp.)

A pair with five juveniles was at Belsay Hall on 21st (KR/LR).

### Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

Singles were at QEII CP Lake on 17th (LJM) and Beal on 26th (IK).

### Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Singles were at Hauxley Reserve on 2nd (IFo) and Hoppen Kiln Flash on 14th (MSH).

### Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

39 flew N over Prestwick Carr on 31st (PCF), up to 32 were at Holywell Dene (RJP), 14-16 at Prestwick Carr and St Mary's Wetland, and two to eight at Bothal and Cocklawburn Ponds, Gosforth Park NR, Grindon Lough, Newcastle Leazes Park, New Water Haugh *Northumberlandia* (Cramlington), the Tweed Estuary and West Hartford. Breeding data were as follows:

Locality	No. of broods	No. of young	Observer/notes
Calder	8+	52	MRS. On 15th
Branton GP	8	37	LJM. On 27th
Haughton Strother GP	3	10	MR. Includes earlier broods. Eight fledged
Brenkley	2	13	GB. On 17th
Marden Quarry	2	--	KWY. On 11th. As April?
Hoppen Kiln Flash	1	10	MSH. On 14th
East Chevington north pool	1	8	STH. On 18th
Druridge Pools	1	6	MSH. On 6th
Woodhorn Flashes	1	5	STH. On 28th

### Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

Eight flew N at Holy Island on 30th (MJC), 59 adults were at Castle Island on 28th (STH), 26 at Newcastle Leazes Park on 19th (DM), 23 near Holy Island causeway on 30th (GB), 16 at Brenkley, and five to ten at Backworth and Bothal Ponds, New Water Haugh and Prestwick Carr. One to four were at Arcot Pond, Cramlington, Gosforth Park NR, Grindon Lough and West Ord. Breeding data were as follows:

Locality	No. of broods/ crèches	No. of young	Observer/notes
Branton GP	4	16	LJM. On 27th
Castle Island	3+	23+	STH. On 28th (brood of 1 first noted on 18th)
Widdrington Moor Lake	2	10	MSH. On 31st
Bank's Pond, Dinnington	1	7	PCF. On 25th
Newcastle Leazes Park	2	6	DM. Brood of 2 on 2nd, and brood of 4 on 15th
Linton Ponds	1	7	CDH. On 18th
West Stobswood Pool	1	6	MSH. On 14th
Shasun Pharma, Dudley	1	5	LJM. On 20th
Duke's Pond	1	4	SPP. On 2nd
Cresswell Pond	1	1+	GB. On 24th

### Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

130 flew NE at Kielderhead on 6th (MD) and on 1st 35 flew N at Cresswell Pond with a further nine landing and remaining on 2nd (ADM<sub>c</sub> *et al.*). Singles were also Budle Bay on 8th (JPD) and Swallow Pond on 12th (CGK/SPP).

### Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*

One dark-bellied *bernicla* race bird flew N at Boulmer on 9th (SB).



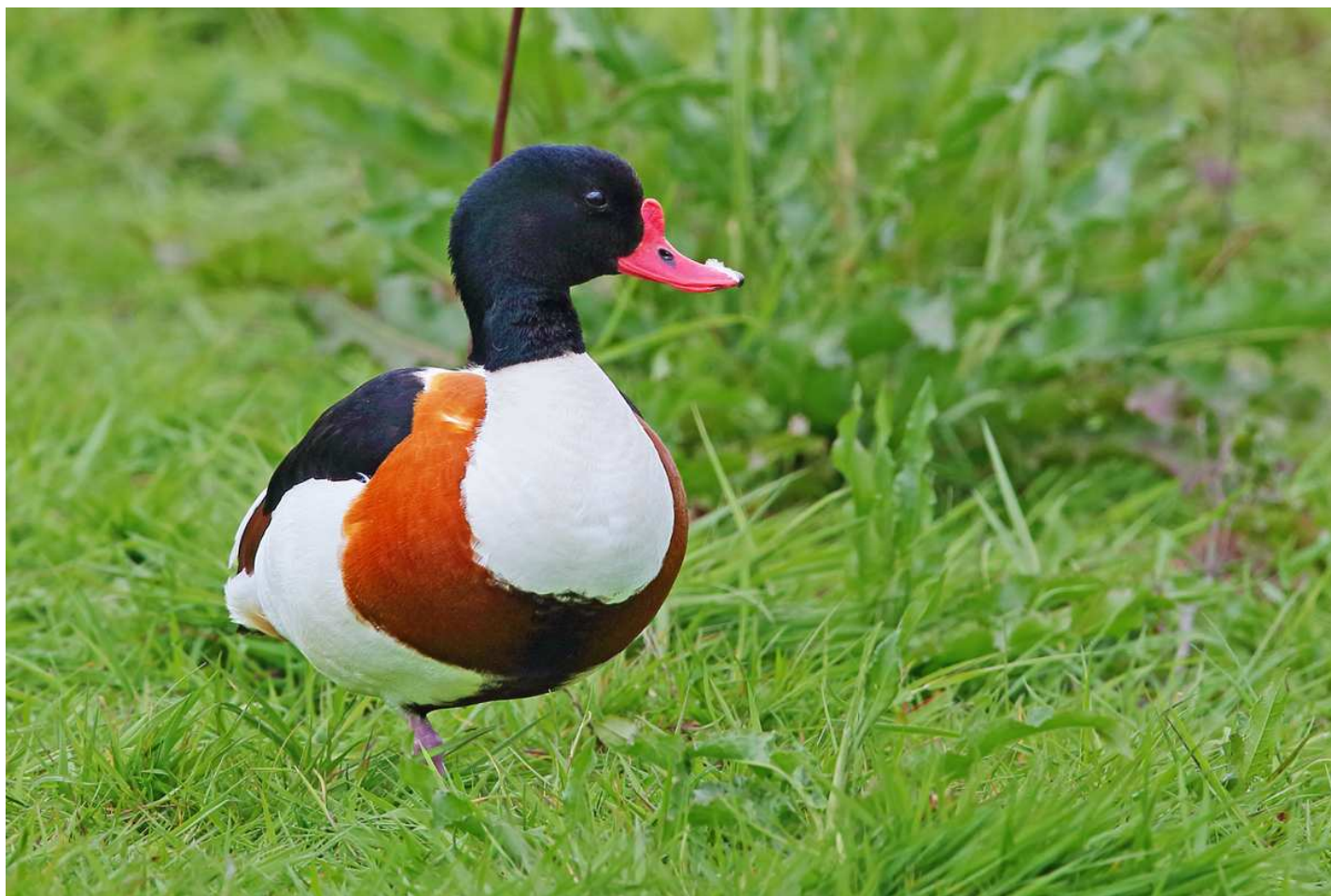
**Egyptian Goose** *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

Singles were at Bothal Pond on 13th (ADMc) and 25th (IRD), and QEII CP Lake on 26th (CDH).

**Shelduck** *Tadorna tadorna*

Seven flew N and two S at Seaton Sluice on 12th (SSWT), and two flew N at Newbiggin on 24th (GB). Peak counts were 106 at Budle Bay on 17th (CGK), 68 at the Blyth Estuary on 11th (LJM), 13-16 at Cresswell Pond (TB), Druridge Pools (TD), Hoppen Kiln Flash (CGK/GPK) and Howdon (CB), and six at Elswick and Grindon Lough. One to two were also at Cocklawburn, Haughton Strother GP, Longhirst Flash, Lynemouth, Monks' House Pool, Prestwick Carr, the Tweed Estuary and West Hartford and West Ord. Breeding data were as follows:

Locality	No. of broods/ crèches	No. of young	Observer/notes
Castle Island	1	15	STH. On 28th
Cresswell Pond	1	11	TD/STH. On 18th. Down to 8 by 26th
Branton GP	1	8	JD/LJM. On 27th
Seghill Flash	1	8	JPD. On 29th



One of our most handsome ducks, a Shelduck  
Photographed at Howdon Wetland  
Colin Bradshaw

**Mandarin** *Aix galericulata*

Two drakes were at Smalesmouth on 3rd (JR) and a pair was at Blakehopeburnhaugh on 31st (JD).

**Wigeon** *Anas penelope*

Three flew N at St Mary's on 2nd (JPD). Grindon Lough held a peak of four pairs and five drakes on 30th (PH), seven at Cresswell Pond on 2nd fell to one by 31st (IRD *et al.*), five (four drakes) were at Derwent Reservoir on 24th (IFo), and one to two occasionally at Caistron, Druridge Pools, Gosforth Park NR, Hoppen Kiln Flash, Prestwick Carr and Swallow Pond.

**Gadwall** *Anas strepera*

Peak counts were 37 at Cresswell Pond on 31st (NFO), 12 at Bothal Pond on 18th (TD/TF/JFa), ten at Bell's Pond (Cresswell), Druridge Pools (TRD/JD) and East Chevington (GB), five to six at the Blyth Estuary, Caistron and Longhirst Flash, and three to four at Backworth and Linton Ponds. One to two were also at Arcot and Swallow Ponds, Gosforth Park NR, Haughton Strother GP, Holy Island Lough, Hoppen Kiln Flash, Lynemouth, Milkhope Lake, Prestwick Carr, the Tweed Estuary and West Hartford.



A Pair of Gadwall at Druridge Pools by Tim Dean on 16th May

**Teal** *Anas crecca*

12 at Swallow Pond on 2nd fell to six by 19th (SPP), seven were at West Hartford on 1st (STH), two pairs at Derwent Reservoir on 1st (IFo), three (two drakes) at Druridge Pools on 24th (GB), and one to two birds at Arcot and Cresswell Ponds, Big Waters, the Blyth Estuary, Castle Island, East Chevington, Grindon Lough, Hauxley Reserve and Hoppen Kiln Flash and Prestwick Carr.

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*

55 (51 drakes) at Derwent Reservoir on 26th (IFo) and 44 at the Tweed Estuary on 16th (MHu) were the largest concentrations, followed by 29 at Newcastle Leazes Park on 2nd (DM) and 11-14 at Byker, Longhirst Flash and Prestwick Carr. Breeding data were as follows (additional to April unless otherwise stated):

Locality	No. of broods	No. of young	Observer/notes
Derwent Reservoir	5+	43+	IFo/JPD. Between 4th-26th
Branton GP	4	19	LJM. On 27th
Prestwick Carr	2	22 (13,9)	GB/PCF. From 3rd. Brood of 9 included 3 all yellow young
Haughton Strother GP	2	21	MR. On 30th
Castle Island	2	10	STH. From 18th
Killingworth Lake	2	9	LJM. On 13th
Carey Burn	1	13	MJC. On 12th
Laverock Hall Farm	1	12	LJM. On 17th
West Stobswood Pool	1	12	MSH. On 14th
Druridge Pools	1	11	JPD. On 17th
Bothal Pond	1	9	TD. On 18th
Hoppen Kiln Flash	1	9	MSH. On 14th
Gosforth Park NR	1	6+	NHSN/MJC.
Big Waters	1	6	GB. On 18th
Farne Islands	1	5	SRB. On 12th
Linton Ponds	1	4	CDH. On 18th
Middle Ord Pond	1	3	MHu. On 18th
Lynemouth	1	2	GB. On 18th
Brenkley	1	1+	GB. On 17th

**Garganey** *Anas querquedula*

At Hoppen Kiln Flash, a pair was noted on 2nd, four (one drake) between 3rd-9th, five (one drake) on 10th (CPK et al.), and three on 11th (DM et al.). Three (two drakes) were at Bothal Pond on 7th and two drakes there on 8th and 12th (TB), three (two drakes) at Cresswell Pond on 14th (TB) and one to two drakes there on five dates between 16th-31st (TRD/JD/MSH/NFO et al.), three (one drake) at Holywell Pond on 7th (ASJ), two drakes at Warkworth Lane Ponds on 19th (JL), single pairs at East Chevington on 6th (JSB), Holy Island Lough on 29th (GB), Newton Pool on 29th (JR) and Swallow Pond on 27th (SPP). Single drakes were at Druridge Pools on 16th (TRD/JD), Holywell Pond on 8th and 11th (STH/SPP), Low Newton scrape on 2nd (SRB/TRD/JD) and Swallow Pond on 26th and 29th (CGK et al.).

**Shoveler** *Anas clypeata*

One flew S at Tynemouth on 30th (DRW). Largest counts were eight (six drakes) at Druridge Pools on 10th (TD), six at Cresswell Pond (TRD/JD), six at Swallow Pond on 2nd (SPP), and three at Lynemouth and Monks' House Flashes (TB/TM). One to two were also at the Beehive Flash, Bell's and Bothal Ponds, East Chevington, the Farne Islands, Gosforth Park NR, Holy Island Lough, Hoppen Kiln Flash, Killingworth Lake and St Mary's Wetland. Breeding data were as follows (additional to April unless otherwise stated):

Locality	No. of broods	No. of young	Observer/notes
Druridge Pools	1	4	MSH. Pair with recently hatched young on 15th



**Pochard** *Aythya ferina*

Swallow Pond held a peak of 11 on 6th (JPD) with five to ten on several other dates between 5th-27th (CGK/LJM/SPP). Eight were at Killingworth Lake on 22nd (JPD), three to four at Arcot, Holywell and West Allotment Ponds (CGK/LJM/STH/MSH). Singles were also at Cresswell Pond, Gosforth Park NR and Hauxley Reserve. More unusual was a drake at Newcastle Leazes Park on 2nd; the observer's first record in 11 years of regular watching (DM).

**Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula*

Three flew S at St Mary's on 24th (JPD). Peak counts were 29 at Swallow Pond on 19th (SPP), 28 at Ladyburn Lake on 2nd (IFo), 26-27 at Bothal (IRD) and Linton (CDH) Ponds and Killingworth Lake (CGK/AJ), and ten to 20 at Arcot Pond, Branton GP, East Chevington, Hauxley Reserve, Howdon, Jesmond Dene, Newcastle Leazes Park, Tynemouth boating lake and Widdrington Moor Lake. Two to nine were also at Capheaton, Cocklawburn Pond, Derwent Reservoir, Gosforth Park NR, Holy Island Lough, Hoppen Kiln Flash, Monks' House Pool, Mootlaw Quarry and West Stobswood Pool.



A drake Tufted Duck  
Druridge Pools  
by Tim Dean on 1st May

**Scaup** *Aythya marila*

A duck was at Ladyburn Lake on 2nd and a pair was noted there on 30th (IFo).

**Eider** *Somateria mollissima*

About 350 adult drakes were off St Cuthbert's Island, Holy Island during the month, with about 60 also in the Snipe Point area (IK), 28 drakes were at Cocklawburn on 19th (MHu), and 15 birds at Berwick North Shore (MHu). One to six were also at the Tweed Estuary and Whitley Bay. Breeding data were as follows:

Locality	No. of broods/ crèches	No. of young	Observer/notes
Coquet Estuary	--	52	JL/JMA. On 31st (32 young noted on 28th)
Budle Bay	2	12	CGK. On 31st

**Long-tailed Duck** *Clangula hyemalis*

One flew N with six Guillemots on 14th (SPP). Two were at Stag Rocks on 18th (TM) and one between 19th-23rd (CGK/GPK *et al.*). One (probable first-summer drake) was again at Derwent Reservoir all month (IFo).

**Common Scoter** *Melanitta nigra*

Coastal passage involved a total of 122 N and five S at St Mary's on six dates between 2nd-30th (JBU/DMcG/JPD/MSH), 48 N and five S at Seaton Sluice on 12th (SSWT), a total of 33 N at Tynemouth on 19th and 23rd (CBH/KWY), and ten N and 14 S at Newbiggin on 24th and 28th (GB/STH). At Cocklawburn, 360 were noted on 8th and 154 on 19th (MHu), 80 at Stag Rocks on 8th declined to 22 by 31st (TRD/JD/CGK), 46 were at Cheswick on 8th (MHu), and ten were off St Mary's on 3rd (SPP).

**Velvet Scoter** *Melanitta fusca*

Singles flew N at Beadnell on 29th (JR) and Budle Point on 30th (GPK).

**Goldeneye** *Bucephala clangula*

Four were at East Chevington on 2nd (IFo) and one on 6th (TRD/JD). Breeding data were as follows:

Locality	No. of broods	No. of young	Observer/notes
North Northumberland	1	7	TRD/JD <i>et al.</i> From 7th. Reduced to five or six by 26th-27th



The duck Goldeneye with her brood  
by Tim Dean  
7th May  
North Northumberland

**Red-breasted Merganser** *Mergus serrator*

Cresswell Pond held seven (four drakes) on 1st (TRD), five on 4th and 6th (IRD/TRD/JD), and two on 11th and 13th (GB/TRD). Two to five were at Budle Bay all month (CGK/GPK), four (one drake) were off East Chevington on 6th (TRD/JD) and one to two there on 2nd and 11th (GB/IFo), three were at Stag Rocks on 4th (ADM) and two on 18th (TM), and singles at the Blyth Estuary and Castle Island.

**Goosander** *Mergus merganser*

Two groups, totalling a notable 264, swam out to sea from the Tweed Estuary on a high tide on 5th, and 11 were noted there on 16th (MHu). Other peak counts were 15 at Rothbury on 7th (JMA), 12 at New Water Haugh (River Tweed) on 26th (MHu), six to seven at Castle Island (ADM), Holy Island (IK) and West Ord (MHu), and three at Airy Holm and Derwent Reservoirs. One to two were also at the Blyth Estuary, Cresswell Pond, Druridge Pools, East Chevington, Upper Coquetdale and Warden.

**Quail** *Coturnix coturnix*

The only report was of one singing near Mootlaw Quarry (Ryal) on 18th/26th (ALT).

**Red-legged Partridge** *Alectoris rufa*

At least 12 were in the Harthope Valley on 14th (TB). Five were at Netherton on 5th (TRD/JD). One to two were noted at Allenbanks, Beehive Flash (Earsdon), Beacon Hill (Longhorsley), Heighley Gate (Morpeth), Matfen, Middleton, Swinhoe, Welton (Whittle Dene) and Whitfield.





A Red-legged Partridge in the Harthope Valley  
by Chris Barlow

**Red Grouse** *Lagopus lagopus*

At least 20 were on Allendale Common on 11th (DM/ALT/HD) and ten were at Westburnhope on 31st (TRD/JD). Six were at Newburn (Harthope Valley) on 11th (DM/ALT/HD) and five at Hepple Whitefield on 26th (AJH). One to three were noted at Harthope Valley, Pithouse Fell (Slaley), Sipton Burn and a nest with ten eggs was found at Cairn Hill (Cheviot).

**Black Grouse** *Tetrao tetrix*

All records came from Allendale. Three males were at Meadow Cottage and one male at Shieldbridge on 11th (DM/ALT/HD). Two males were at Swinhope Shield on 26th (ASH) and two females and a male were at Acton Farm on 31st (JPD).

**Grey Partridge** *Perdix perdix*

Three were at Howlett Hall (Bolam) on 21st (MRS). Elsewhere pairs were noted at Allerdean, Arcot Pond, Ashington, Boulmer, Chugdon Wood (Ellington), Cresswell Pond, Duddo, East Chevington, Ellington, Fieldhead (Longhorsley), Gosforth Park NR, Hemscott Hill (Cresswell), Newbiggin GC, Old Hartley, Prestwick Carr, Rowley Burn, Todburn, West Hartford, West Ord and Whittle Dene. A single was seen at Fenham-le-Moor.

**Pheasant** *Phasianus colchicus*

Four females and two females were in a Walbottle garden on 25th (KR/LR). Four were at Welton (Whittle Dene) on 13th (MJCo) and two were at Hartley West Farm (Holywell Dene) during the month. Birds were also noted at Hemscott Hill (Cresswell) and Gosforth Park. Three to five were noted at Arcot Lane and Pond, East Cramlington LNR, Hartley West Farm (Holywell Dene), a Walbottle garden and at Wallington Hall.

**Red-throated Diver** *Gavia stellata*

Light passage was noted during the month. At St Mary's Island seven flew N on 24th, four flew S and three N on 14th, two flew S on 22nd and one flew S on 11th (JPD/SPP). At Seaton Sluice eight were noted flying N during 17 hours of sea-watching (SSWT). One flew N at Low Newton on 20th. In Druridge Bay 20 were present on 17th (NFO). Five were at Cocklawburn on 12th (MHu). One to three were noted at Berwick North Shore, Cheswick, Cresswell, East Chevington, Newton Point, St Mary's Island, Spittal Bay and Stag Rocks.

**Great Northern Diver** *Gavia immer*

On 24th two, one in summer plumage, flew N at Snab Point (Cresswell) and one in summer plumage flew N at St Mary's Island and Seaton Sluice (ADM/SPP/SSWT). One flew N at Newbiggin on 12th (ADM) and St Mary's Island on 14th (JPD/MPF/AS). One was in Spittal Bay on 10th (MHu).

**Fulmar** *Fulmarus glacialis*

Passage was noted at Seaton Sluice with 25 N in three hours on 22nd and 20 N in one hour on 23rd (SSWT). At St Mary's Island 18 flew N in 30 minutes on 23rd and ten flew N in 30 minutes on 22nd (MSH). 24 were noted on Old Hartley cliffs on 3rd (SPP) and eight nests were at Rockcliffe (Whitley Bay) on 18th (IJ). One to four were noted at Bamburgh Castle, Low Newton, Snab Point and the Tweed Estuary. A 'blue phase' bird flew N at St Mary's Island on 14th (JPD/MPF/AS).

**Gannet** *Morus bassanus*

At Seaton Sluice 400 flew N in three hours on 22nd and 225 flew N in one hour on 23rd (SSWT). 150 flew N at Newton Point on 2nd (TRD/JD), 134 flew N in 30 minutes at St Mary's Island on 22nd, with 40 N there in 30 minutes on 23rd (MSH) and 120 flew N in one hour 45 minutes at Tynemouth on 23rd (KWY). Movements, mainly N, of ten to 35 were noted during the month at Beadnell, East Chevington, Newbiggin, Spittal Bay and Stag Rocks.

**Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

The peak counts were 24 at East Chevington on 18th (STH), 11 at Derwent Reservoir on 28th (IFo) and ten at Berwick North Shore on 15th ((MHu). Eight were in the Tweed Estuary on 16th and at Sandstell Point (Berwick) on 25th (MHu). Two were in the Blyth Estuary and singles were noted at Elswick Wharf, Holywell Dene and Linton Ponds.

**Shag** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

At Seaton Sluice two flew N on 12th and one flew N on 24th (SSWT). The peak count was only five at Berwick North Shore on 15th (MHu). Two were noted at Stag Rocks on 8th/20th.

**Bittern** *Botaurus stellaris*

One was still present at Gosforth Park NR until 5th (NHSN).

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*

Again only singles were noted during the month; in Budle Bay on 15th (GPK), flying N at Cresswell Pond on 24th (MSH) and on 31st in the Coquet Estuary and flying into the heronry at Alnmouth (JL).

**Great White Egret** *Ardea alba*

One remained at Druridge Pools until 6th, visiting Cresswell Pond on 2nd and returning on 21st to Druridge Pools (Many observers).



Two uncommon visitors to our wetlands, both at Druridge pools  
left: the Great White Egret in flight by Chris Barlow and right: the Spoonbill by Tim Dean on 16th May



Left a Grey Heron  
Thrum Mill  
Janet Dean  
3rd May

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*

Eight, including juveniles fledged from the heronry, were at Gosforth Park NR during the month (NHSN) and were in the Tweed Estuary on 16th (MHu). Five (three immatures) were at West Ord (Berwick) on 11th (MHu). One to three were noted at Arcot Pond, Horton Grange, Holywell Dene, Linton Ponds and being mobbed by Carrion Crows on a garage roof at Southfield Green (Cramlington). One caught and ate four large eels in the space of 45 minutes at Cresswell Pond on 20th (EC).

**Spoonbill** *Platalea leucorodia*

Two flew N at Alnmouth on 19th (TF). A Dutch-ringed adult seen at Druridge in 2011 and Hauxley in 2012 was present at Druridge Pools/Cresswell Pond from 15th-28th (many observers) whilst a probable 2nd calendar year unringed bird was at East Chevington NR on 27th (MSH).

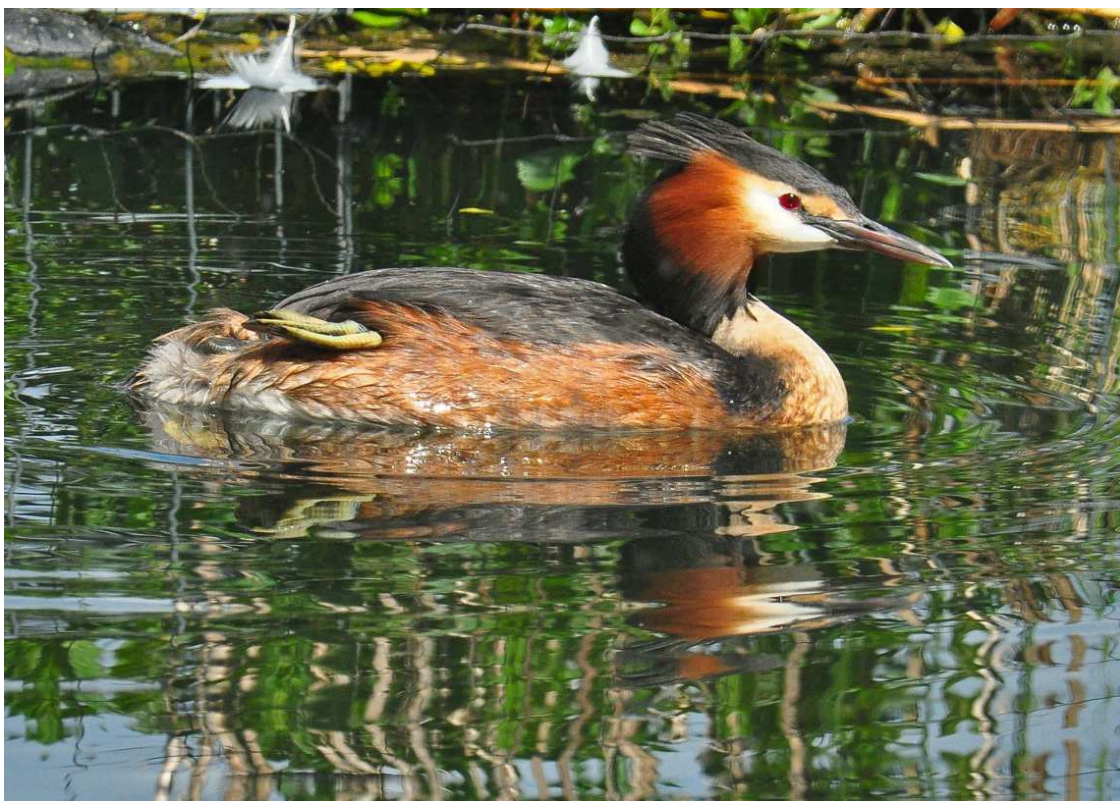


**Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Eight were at Swallow Pond on 2nd (SPP). Four were present all month at Arcot Pond (LJM) and on 18th at Linton Ponds (CDH) and Monks' House Pool (TM) with a pair seen here feeding a small chick on 29th (MSH). Three were present throughout the month at Gosforth Park NR (NHSN) and at Hedgeley GP on 27th (LJM). One to two were noted at Bothal Pond, Capheaton Lake, Cocklawburn Pond, Cragside, Dinnington, Hauxley NR and Hoppen Kiln Pond (Lucker).

**Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus*

Eight (four pairs) were at Derwent Reservoir by the end of the month with a pair noted feeding two young on 31st (IFo). Three pairs were at East Chevington NR (many observers) with one pair being noted with a brood of three young on 31st (MSH). The peak count at Killingworth Lake was six with two nesting pairs on 13th (LJM). Four were at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 20th (SR). The peak count at Arcot Pond was three on 6th with a single remaining until 19th (LJM *et al.*). Three were at Widdrington Moor Lake on 9th (AT). A pair remained throughout the month at Bothal Pond (TF/JFa *et al.*). Pairs were also noted at Branton GP, Cresswell Pond, nesting at Haughton Strother GP and at **ting**, Holywell Pond and QEII Lake. Singles were at Airy Holm Reservoir (Shotleyfield), East Chevington South Pool and Warkworth Lane.



A Great Crested Grebe at Killingworth Pond by Jack Bucknall

**Black-necked Grebe** *Podiceps nigricollis*

Three displaying pairs were present at a regular breeding location in South East Northumberland. A single was at a locality in South West Northumberland.

**Black Kite** *Milvus migrans*

One observer found a bird flying North along the A697 at Weldon Bridge (Longframlington) then East at 16:40 on 21st (MJC).

**Red Kite** *Milvus milvus*

Single birds were noted at Bewick Moor on 2nd (per IK), another was at Haltonlea Fell on 14th (PH) and at Newlands on 23rd (AJR).

**Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*

The Druridge Bay area had the majority of sightings with two birds at East Chevington on several dates and other sightings at Hemscott Hill, Ellington and Cresswell Pond. Away from the coast other singles were at Gosforth Park on 5th (MJCo), Holywell Pond on 13th (MSH), Haltonlea Fell on 14th (PH) and Prestwick Carr on 17th (PCF).



A Marsh Harrier quarters East Chevington by Tim Dean on 6th May

**Goshawk** *Accipiter gentilis*

Only one record this month with a single bird at Debdon (Rothbury) on 2nd (MNC).

**Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*

A pair was seen regularly throughout the month at Gosforth Park NR (NHSN) and a pair was at Ellington on 9th (TB). Single birds were noted at Big Waters, Cramlington, Embleton, Gosforth Park NR, Sweethope, Swinhoe (Beadnell), Upper Coquetdale (Blindburn) and Walbottle. A pair, one dead, the other dying, both with no visible injuries was found roadside near the junction of the A68 and Military road near Errington on 31st May. It is probable they were poisoned. A report has been made to RSPB (D Craig *per* SRB).

**Common Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*

Six birds were noted in the Breamish Valley on 27th (LJM) and five were in the Breamish Valley on 26th (ASJ), three birds were noted at Arcot Pond, Druridge Links and at Spindleston. Two birds were at Longframlington & in the Harthope Valley. Single birds were at 12 other sites.

**Rough-legged Buzzard** *Buteo lagopus*

An immature bird was seen in the Breamish Valley (Ingram) on 26th (ASJ).

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetuss*

Single birds were noted at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 2nd (SR) and Derwent Reservoir on several dates (Ifo/JPD).

**Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus*

Four birds were heard calling around the South Pool (E Chevington) on 9th (TF/JFa) and single birds were either heard or seen at Holy Island on 2nd (MJC/ADM), West Hartford on 8th (STH), Arcot Pond on 10th (STH), Crag Lough on 17th (IJ) and Wallsend Swallow Pond on 26th (CGK).

**Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*

The highest count was 30 birds which included 18 young at Howdon on 25th (CB). One to two birds were at Arcot Pond, Druridge Pools, Gosforth Park NR, Holy Island Lough, and Jesmond Dene and at Leazes Park (Newcastle).

**Coot** *Fulica atra*

Bothal Pond had 23 birds including a pair with four young on 18th (TD) which was the highest count. Ten birds were at Arcot Pond on 4th (DM) and eight birds were at Linton Pond on 18th (CDH) with one nest noted. One to four birds were at Druridge Pools, Duke's Pond (Wallsend), Gosforth Park NR, Grindon Lough, Howdon, Killingworth Lake, Leazes Park (Newcastle), Middle Ord (Berwick), Ryal and Wallsend Swallow Pond.

**Crane** *Grus grus*

A bird flew South over Newbiggin Ash Lagoons on 3rd (ADM *et al.*) and another single bird was noted at Corbridge on 13th (MR).

**Avocet** *Recurvirostra avosetta*

One to three birds were present at two confidential sites during the month. Birds were present at Cresswell Pond throughout, with a peak of five noted on 31st (MSH/IRD), four on 1st-2nd (TRD/TB) and one to three on many other dates.



An Avocet at Cresswell Pond  
by Tim Dean on 28th May



**Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus*

Reduced numbers on the coast saw peaks of 45 at Berwick North Shore on 15th (MHu), 43 at Cresswell Pond on 10th (ASJ), 34 in the Hauxley area on 2nd (IFo), 24 at Cocklawburn Saltpan Rocks on 8th and 14 at Berwick Little Beach on 5th (MHu) with single-figure reports from two other coastal sites. Evidence of breeding was noted at Branton GP (two young), Haughton Strother GP (three chicks), Hedgeley GP (two broods - three and one young), Prudhoe (nest & three eggs) and Redesmouth (three juveniles). One to four were also seen at Bothal Pond, Caistron, Capheaton, Cramlington, Elswick (R. Tyne), Grindon Lough, Harthope Valley, High Heaton (Freeman Hospital), Hoppen Kiln Pool, Horton Grange (Blagdon), Mootlaw Quarry, Prestwick Carr and Sipton Burn.

**Golden Plover** *Pluvialis apricaria*

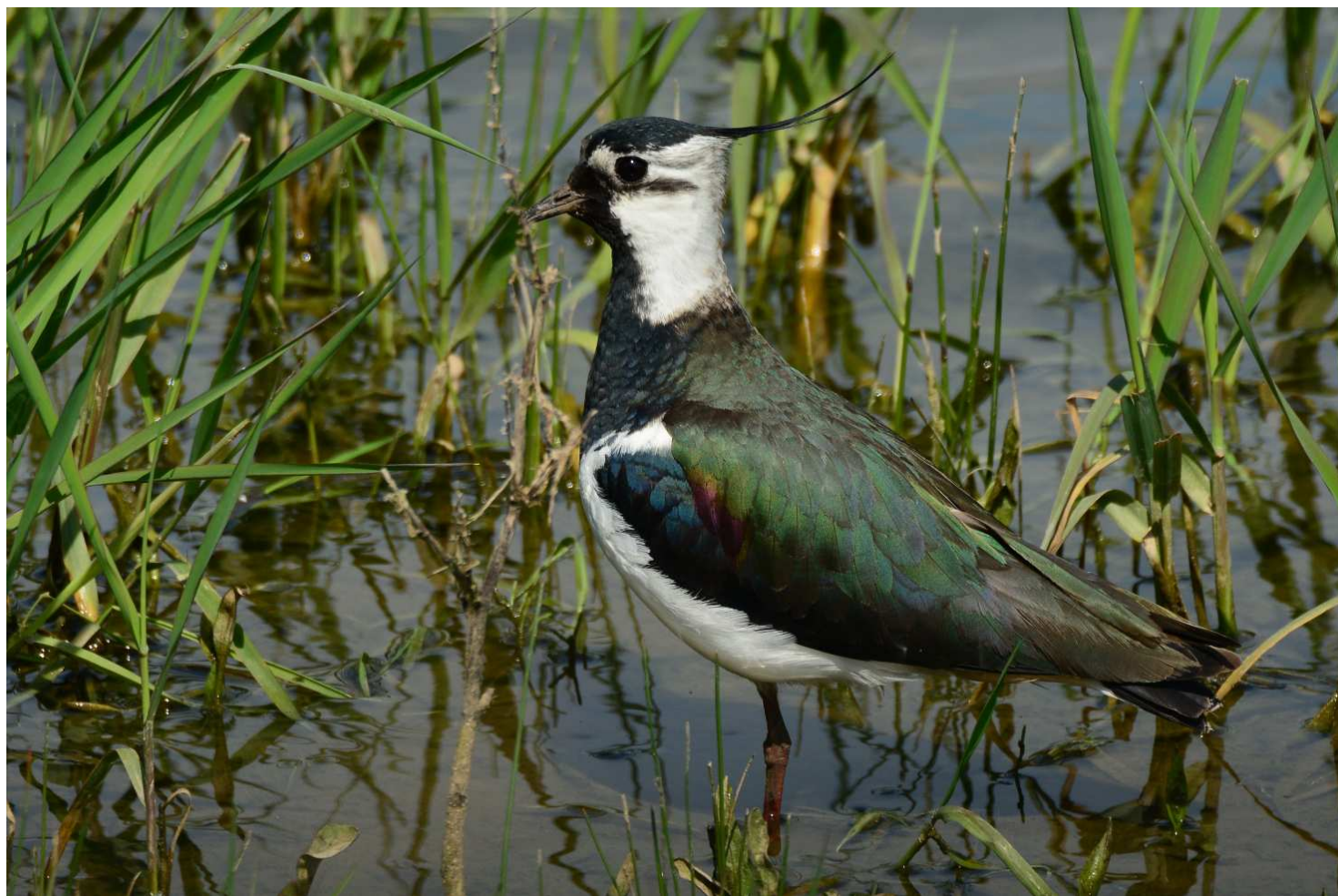
A group of 12 were seen in an upland field at Meadow Cottage (Allendale) and three were on nearby Allendale Common on 11th (DM/ALT/HDD). Potential breeding birds also involved four (two displaying males) on The Cheviot on 14th (AB/LB). Elsewhere, five flew over Holy Island on 9th (TRD/JD) and three were in Prestwick Carr on 5th (PCF).

**Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*

Budle Bay held 45 summer-plumaged birds on 15th (GPK) and two were seen from Holy Island causeway on 29th (TRD/JD) whilst Cresswell Pond attracted two on 19th (MSH) and one to two during 22nd-30th (IRD/TB/IFo *et al.*). Another single was seen on rocks at St Mary's Island on 26th (SPP).

**Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus*

Counts of nesting birds resulted in 92 pairs (some with young) being found on Acton Moor (Allendale) and 31 pairs on Acton Fell (Blanchland), both on 3rd (ASJ). Further double-digit counts included 14 at Hepple on 15th (ASJ) and 12 (one chick noted) at Druridge Pools on 18th (TD). Further evidence of breeding came from Backworth Flash (brood of four) (MSH/CGK), Big Waters (three chicks) (AJN) and Newbiggin GC (two small young) (IFo). Single-figure reports involving possible breeding birds were also made at Billylaw (Ord Moor, Berwick) (displaying pair), Bothal Pond (display), Cresswell Pond, Fieldhead (Longhorsley), Holystone (one pair), Howdon (two displaying males), Longhirst Flash (display), Prestwick Carr (display in four different areas), Swallow Pond (two pairs), Welton (near Whittle Dene Reservoir) and West Ord.



A fine Lapwing at Druridge pools  
by Tim Dean on 16th May

**Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius*

Reports were received of one to four birds at six confidential sites during the month. Lynemouth Flash also attracted one to two on 7th/15th (TB/STH), as did nearby Cresswell Pond with singles on 6th/23rd (TB/ADM). Bothal Pond also held one on 1st (TF/JFa) and two on 3rd (ADM) and single birds were recorded at Hoppen Kiln Flash (near Lucker) on 8th-9th (JPD/GPK/TRD *et al.*) and flying N calling over Tynemouth on 11th (DRW *per* CB) – only the second site record here.

**Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*

Birds passed through in high numbers at Holy Island where ca.600 were seen from the causeway on 18th (ADM). On the Blyth Estuary some 187 were counted on the 17th (LJM) whilst elsewhere, 96 were on the Tweed Estuary on 16th (MHu), 67 at Warkworth Gut on 18th (NFO), 50 in Budle Bay on 28th (GPK), 30+ at Boulmer Haven on 11th and ten to 22 at Chevington Burn beach, Cocklawburn and the Coquet Estuary. Four pairs were in the Long Nanny area on 5th (SRB), three including display were at Lynemouth Bay on 4th (JL), a pair successfully reared young in Budle Bay (CGK) and a pair was breeding in the Breamish Valley at Ingram on 26th (ASJ). One to four were recorded at a further 11 sites, including a pair in fields adjacent to the *Northumberlandia* site at Cramlington on three dates.

**Dotterel** *Charadrius morinellus*

A walk to the summit of The Cheviot was rewarded with five birds, including two females, on 6th (ADMc).

**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*

Early May produced good numbers at Druridge Pools where 20 on 1st (TRD) increased to 27 on 5th (IJ/CGK), 36 on 6th (TRD/JD), reducing to 14 on 7th (MJC), 12 on 10th (TD) and six on 15th (STH). Cresswell Pond also held 20 on 2nd (IRD) and 13 moved N in one hour at Seaton Sluice on 6th (SSWT). Peaks elsewhere included eight at Low Newton scrape on 2nd (SRB/TRD/JD), five at Widdrington Moor Lake on 4th (JL), five coming in off the sea at Druridge Pools on 11th (DM/ALT/HDD) and three to four passing over/north at Boulmer, Spittal Bay and Tynemouth during 4th-5th. Three were also at Budle Bay on 5th/8th and again at Tynemouth on 14th including one on rocks at the base of the pier. During 1st-18th one to two were also noted at or passing over a further 14 locations including inland at Grindon, Haughton Strother GP, Prestwick Carr and Whittle Dene Reservoirs. The latest sighting was one heard passing over Haughton Strother GP on 21st (MR).

**Curlew** *Numenius arquata*

Druridge Pools attracted the most with 42 on 1st (TB) and 22 possibly non-breeding birds were at Widdrington Moor Lake on 31st (MSH). A count at Acton Moor in Allendale totalled 24 including 13 displaying males on 3rd (ASJ). Elsewhere, reports of one to four came from Berwick North Shore, Crag Lough, Fieldhead (Longhorsley), Howdon, Longhorsley Moor, Pithouse Fell (Slaley), Prestwick Carr (displaying) and the Tweed estuary.



Mike Carr with a Curlew chick in the hand

**Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa*

Good numbers moved through this month, with 74 on the Blyth Estuary on 11th probably a site record (LJM), whilst 50 remained on 17th (JPD/MPF/AS) and 24 on 20th (AT). Numbers peaked slightly later at Cresswell Pond where counts increased from ten on 18th (TB), to 13 on 22nd (ADMc), 38 on 25th (IRD), 47 on 26th (MSH) and 29th (ADMc) before tailing off to 41 on 31st (IRD). Highs elsewhere included 18 at Holywell and 16 at St Mary's Wetland on 12th (ASJ), 15 S over Ellington on 30th (TB), 14 at Seghill Flash between 22nd-29th (CGK/JPD *et al.*), four at Druridge Pools on 9th (AT), three at Stobswood Pools on 2nd (ADMc) and singles at Prestwick Carr on 2nd (GB/PCF), flying N over East Chevington on 8th (ADMc), Bothal Pond on 26th (ADMc) and Hoppen Kiln Flash (near Lucker) on 29th (MSH/TRD/JD).

**Bar-tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica*

Summering non-breeding birds numbered 400 at Lindisfarne during the month (IK). Apart from five at Low Newton on 2nd (TRD/JD), two were noted at Boulmer Haven on 11th (DM/ALT/HDD), Cresswell Pond on 16th (TB), Druridge Pools including one in full summer plumage on 1st (TB) and at Budle Bay on 17th where one 1st-summer bird remained until 28th (CGK/GPK).

**Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*

Most were reported at Stag Rocks with peaks there of 26 on 11th (DM/ALT/HD) and 30+ on 14th (BRS); 17 were at Boulmer Haven, also on 11th. Otherwise three or fewer were noted at Cocklawburn, East Chevington, Newbiggin and Whitley Bay up to 12th and then one at Holy Island causeway on 29th.

**Knot** *Calidris canutus*

The only record was of three roosting at high tide on St Cuthbert's Island on 31st (IK).

**Ruff** *Calidris pugnax*

A very light passage involved singles at Cresswell Pond on 2nd (TB), at Beadnell Flash on 8th/9th (TRD/JD/JPD), at Hoppen Kiln Flash during 16th to 19th and again on 24th (AH *et al.*) and at Seghill Flash on 29th (JPD).

**Broad-billed Sandpiper** *Calidris falcinellus*

One was feeding with Dunlin at high tide at 06:20h on 30th at the north end of Holy Island causeway (GB).



**Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea*

One was reported by a visitor at Boulmer on 19th (A. Cohen), one at Holy Island causeway on 29th (GB) and one was at Cresswell Pond on 27th (TB/IRD).

**Temminck's Stint** *Calidris temminckii*

One was at Lynemouth Flash in the evening of 7th (TB). One at Hoppen Kiln Flash on 17th (MSH) was termed 'difficult to see and often disappeared' but it was found again there on 21st (GPK).

**Sanderling** *Calidris alba*

Bamburgh beach held 150 on 23rd (EC), 90 on 23rd (TM) and Budle Bay had 85+ on 19th (CGK/GPK) down to 40 on 28th. Also, 40 were at Holy Island on 29th and peaks occurred of 32 at Cheswick on 8th and of 30 at St Mary's on 13th. Up to 15 were at East Chevington with one or two at Cocklawburn, R. Tweed Estuary and Tynemouth.



A Sanderling on the north shore of Holy Island  
by Graeme Bowman on 29th May

**Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*

By far the highest count was of 100+ at Boulmer Haven on 11th (DM/ALT/HD). Elsewhere at the coast, Cresswell Pond had a peak of 17 on 21st, 13 were at Stag Rocks on 11th, 12 at Chevington Burn also on 11th and five or fewer at Holy Island, Long Nanny, Low Newton, Lynemouth Flash and St Mary's. Inland a pair was at Grindon Lough on 30th, the male singing briefly, and three were at Derwent Reservoir on 12th.

**Purple Sandpiper** *Calidris maritima*

The peak at Stag Rocks was 20 on 8th (TRD/JD) with the last there seven on 18th. The most at Tynemouth was 14 on 5th (SPP) with a last one on 17th. Elsewhere 11 were at Monks' House on 8th, five at Newbiggin on 2nd and two at Whitley Bay on 1st.

**Little Stint** *Calidris minuta*

A bird in breeding plumage was at Holy island causeway on 29th (GB) and two records were reported by visitors: two at Boulmer on 19th (A. Cohen) and one in Budle Bay on 27th (J. Robson).

**Pectoral Sandpiper** *Calidris melanotos*

One at Hoppen Kiln Flash on 6th remained until the evening of 10th (GPK *et al.*).

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*

Nine were on River South Tyne at Eals on 3rd (AJH), nine in Upper Coquetdale on 15th, eight at Ingram on 1st, eight at Hepple on 15th (all ASJ) and six at Derwent Reservoir on 14th (IFo). Two to four were noted at Allerwash, Bothal Pond, Budle Bay, Castron, Cresswell Pond, Doddington Bridge, Harthope Valley, Lilburn and Rothbury. Singles were found at a further 15 widespread locations.

**Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*

Two at Hoppen Kiln Flash on 6th (GPK) was the only record.

**Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*

One was at Cresswell Pond on 22nd and 25th/26th (IRD *et al.*) and one at Prestwick Carr on 25th (PCF).

**Lesser Yellowlegs** *Tringa flavipes*

One was at Beadnell Flash during 8th to 10th (G. Woodburn *et al.*).

**Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*

Hoppen Kiln Flash attracted good numbers: after one on 3rd, two were noted daily during 6th to 10th (GPK *et al.*) then two on 14th (MSH), six on 21st (GPK), four on 24th and one on 26th. Singles occurred at Castron on 5th (TRD/JD), at Druridge Pools on 14th (TB) and at Cresswell Pond on 15th/16th (STH *et al.*).

**Redshank** *Tringa totanus*

Four pairs were noted at Acton Moor (Blanchland) on 21st (ASJ) when some display was witnessed. A pair with one young were at Seghill Flash on 29th (JPD). Singles were at Whitley Bay on 1st, displaying in Allendale on 11th, at Hoppen Kiln Flash on 11th and at Grindon Lough on 30th.

**Woodcock** *Scolopax rusticola*

A total of eight or nine was reported. On 11th 'roding' was observed at Pithouse Fell (Slaley) and others were seen the same day at Dipton, Whitfield and Allendale Common (all DM/ALT/HD). The others were at Rothbury on 3rd, Harthope Valley on 14th and 17th and at Derwent Reservoir on 17th.

**Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*

Naturally, almost all records relate to breeding activity, including five at Acton Moor on 21st and five at Prestwick Carr on 31st. There are 15 further reports of one or two exhibiting breeding behaviour at widespread localities across the County from early in the month. One at Howdon on 4th was perhaps a late migrant with eyes on the continent.

**Arctic Skua** *Stercorarius parasiticus*

A dark phase flew N at Newbiggin on 28th (STH) and two pale phase moved N at Snab Point on 29th (ADMc).

**Long-tailed Skua** *Stercorarius longicaudus*

One flew N off Seaton Sluice Watch Tower on 27th (MHp).

**Great Skua** *Stercorarius skua*

One flew N at Seaton Sluice on 27th (SSWT).

**Auk** *sp*

Significant movements N were noted at Seaton Sluice on 12th, with a rate of 675 passing in one hour and on 22nd, when 650 passed in three hours (SSWT), with 201 in a half-hour at St Mary's Island on 22nd (MSH). On the following day, 23rd, the movement N continued with 500 in an hour at Seaton Sluice and 250 in just under two hours at Tynemouth (KWY).

**Puffin** *Fratercula arctica*

At St Mary's Island, 53 and 27 passed N on 22nd and 24th respectively during two five-hour sea watch sessions (JPD) and at nearby Seaton Sluice, 19 were specifically identified, moving N on 20th-23rd during the significant auk movement (SSWT). On Coquet Island, 100s were counted at or around the breeding colony on 11th (DM/ALT/HD).

**Razorbill** *Alca torda*

Only one record, a single at Bamburgh Stag Rocks on 8th (TRD/JD).

**Guillemot** *Uria aalge*

At Bamburgh Stag Rocks, 'dozens' were noted on 18th (ADM), with ten there on 8th (TRD/JD) and elsewhere, two to four were at three other sites in the north (TRD/JD/MHu) with a single at Whitley Bay on 1st (IJ).

**Little Tern** *Sternula albifrons*

The first arrivals of the year, on 2nd, were four at Low Newton (TRD/JD) and one at St Mary's Island (JPD); at the Long Nanny breeding site the numbers increased from three to seven from 5th-10th (ASJ *et al.*). One to four were recorded elsewhere from 9th, at Beadnell Harbour, Boulmer, Budle Bay, the Holy Island area and at St Mary's Island.





An early Little Tern at High Newton by Colin Bradshaw

**Black Tern** *Chlidonias niger*

An adult flew N at St Mary's Island on 13th (JBu) and a second adult fed over the Whittle Dene Reservoirs in the late evening of 20th but had departed by the following morning (EC).



The Whittle Dene Black Tern photographed by a Eddie Douglas on 20th May

**Sandwich Tern** *Sterna sandvicensis*

A total of 440 flew N in three hours at Seaton Sluice on 22nd with 140 moving S in one hour on 6th (SSWT). Gatherings elsewhere included a peak count of 69 on the Battery Rocks (Tynemouth) on 10th (DRW) with 20-65 recorded on various dates at Berwick (North Shore and Spittal), Budle Bay, Cocklawburn, Monks' House, Newbiggin (Beacon Point) and St Mary's Island (TRD/JD/MHu/CGK/ASJ/AT). One to 16 were at ten other widespread localities throughout the month.

**Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*

The maximum count recorded during a passage movement N at Seaton Sluice was 34 in five hours on 22nd (SSWT). Breeding records included 30 pairs at North Shields, Royal Quays Marina which, by the month end, had settled onto a new nesting pontoon having lost their former nesting site to redevelopment (KWY), 17 pairs at the Gosforth Park NR and adjacent pool (NHSN) and three pairs, possibly nesting, at Whittle Dene Reservoirs (DM/STH/LJM/PJA). From 4th, gatherings of 10-30 were recorded at East Chevington, Holywell Pond, Killingworth Lake, the Tyne Estuary and Whittle Dene Reservoirs (SPP/TRD/JD *et al.*) with, elsewhere, one to six at Arcot Pond, Big Waters, Cresswell Pond, over Gosforth, Leazes Park, the River Tweed Estuary, St Mary's Island and Swallow Pond,

**Roseate Tern** *Sterna dougallii*

The first bird of the year was one on the rocks at St Mary's Island on 12th (ASJ) and on 16th a single flew N past Cullernose Point (STE). At Seaton Sluice one flew S on 22nd (SSWT).

**Arctic Tern** *Sterna paradisaea*

An unusual inland record came from Haughton Strother GP (Humshaugh) where, following heavy rain, four birds flew NE on 9th (MR) and at Tynemouth on 23rd, 30 flew N in almost two hours (KWY). On 8th, 382 birds were counted on the beach at the Long Nanny colony (TRD/JD) and an estimated 1,000+ were there on 10th (ASJ).



An Arctic Tern over the Long Nanny by Colin Bradshaw

**Kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla*

The maximum counts from Seaton Sluice comprised 200 N in an hour on 29th and 150 S in an hour on 6th (SSWT), 40 flew N in an hour on the evening of 11th at St Mary's Island (MSH) and 34 moved N in an hour at Newbiggin on 28th (STH). At Berwick Spittal Bay ca.100 were noted in a feeding 'frenzy' on 29th and in the River Tweed Estuary 66 were found during a WeBS survey on 16th (MHu). Apart from 14 at Howdon on 25th (CB), all other records were in single figures of one to three at six other localities.

**Black-headed Gull** *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

Fourteen pairs were nesting at Gosforth Park NR and the adjacent pool, with the first chicks reported on 30th (NHSN) and at the Holy Island Lough up to 12 pairs nested again after a break of ten years following desertion of the regular colony due to Otter disturbance (IK). Elsewhere, one to five were reported from six localities.

**Little Gull** *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

It was a good month for sightings of this species, all immatures, at Cresswell Pond where numbers rose from one to three, recorded on many dates up to 24th, to a maximum of 16 from 25th-31st (IRD/ADM/EC). Elsewhere, one to two immatures were seen from 2nd onwards at Budle Bay, East Chevington, Holy Island Lough, Newton (Long Nanny) and St Mary's Island.



A Little Gull  
Cresswell Pond  
by Neil Osborne  
31st May



**Mediterranean Gull** *Larus melanocephalus*

Five un-aged birds remained at Newbiggin on 2nd (TB) with a single adult at Cresswell Pond on the same date (ASH).

**Common Gull** *Larus canus*

Only two records, of 15 first-summers in Budle Bay on 31st (CGK) and a single bird noted during a WeBS survey in the River Tweed Estuary on 16th (MHu).

**\*Ring-billed Gull** *Larus delawarensis*

A rare North American visitor to the county. On 2nd, three lucky observers watched an adult fly in from the S at St Mary's Island to land briefly in the surf before moving off N (JPD/MPF/AS). If accepted, this will be the first county record for the species since 2006.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus graelsii*

Swallow Pond held a gathering of 23 on 12th (SPP) with a similar number reported from the Elswick Wharf (River Tyne) on 16th (DM). A WeBS count on the River Tweed Estuary included 21 on 16th (MHu), with ten to 20 at Jesmond Dene (MJCo) and Ryal (DM *et al.*) and one to ten at five other localities.

**Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus argenteus*

The largest concentrations were at Airy Holm Reservoir (near Shotleyfield) where, on 14th, at least 260, at all stages of maturity, were present (IFo), 184 in the River Tweed Estuary on 16th, 158 at Berwick (North Shore) on 15th (MHu), 100 at Elswick Wharf (River Tyne) on 21st and 80 at Ryal on 11th (DM). Elsewhere up to 25 were at Jesmond Dene and Leazes Park with 18 at occupied nests on the Blyth Riverside Industrial Estate on 12th (LJM).

**Iceland Gull** *Larus glaucoideus*

An immature was on the rocks by Beadnell Harbour on 13th (PHH).

**Rock Dove** *Columba livia*

A BBS at Welton (Whittle Dene) found two on 13th and also present at Jesmond Dene on 4th (MJCo).

**Stock Dove** *Columba oenas*

In the Shieldbridge area of Allendale Common 31 pairs were found nesting in derelict farm buildings on 17th (DM/ALT/HD) with the peak count at Howdon being 49 on 31st (CB). Lower numbers elsewhere with five at Jesmond Dene on 25th and one to two at ten widely spread localities.

**Woodpigeon** *Columba palumbus*

A maximum monthly count of 28 at Howdon (CB), ten at Welton (Whittle Dene) on 13th, eight at Jesmond Dene on 4th (MJCo) with four the peak count in a Walbottle garden on the same date (KR/LR).

**Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*

Four were at Beaconhill (Cramlington) on 31st (PCF), two in gardens at Old Hartley and Walbottle (RJP/KR/LR), at Welton on 13th and Gosforth Park (MJCo).

**Cuckoo** *Cuculus canorus*

Very well reported as birds sang, the peak being ten in the Winnows Hill / Derwent area on 31st (JPD), four at Harthope Valley on 11th (DM/ALT/HD) and Simonside on 31st (ASJ), three still at Harthope Valley on 14th (TRD/JD) with two at the aforementioned locations and Blanchland, Debdon (Rothbury), Holystone, Kyloe Hills, Beacon Hill (Longhorsley), Saley, Spartylea and Westburnhope. Single birds were seen or heard at 30 other widely spread localities.

**Barn Owl** *Tyto alba*

A pleasing increase in reporting as nesting pairs were seen, the high count being two pairs at nest sites only 300m apart at Holy Island each having three large young, this being the first multiple breeding on the island since it recommenced after fifty years in 2008 (IK). Three were at Holywell Dene on 12th (JPD/MPF/AS) with the nesting pair at Cresswell Pond seen frequently during the month (ten reports) and possibly another pair hunting at Hemscott Hill on 12th (TB), roosting at Saley on 14th (MP) and hunting at Holy Island on 30th (MJC). A single bird was feeding young at a tree nest site near Alnwick on 13th (AH) with other singles at Boulmer, Druridge Pools, East Stobswood, Hartley, Haughton Strother, Linden Hall (Longhorsley), Maiden's Hall and Whittle Dene Reservoirs.

**Little Owl** *Athene noctua*

A pair remained on territory at Shiremoor all month (CGK) with singles at Beaconhill (Cramlington) on 6th (STH), near Ingoe on 11th (DM/ALT/HD), Saley Forest on 13th (AA) and Chevington Moor on 30th (MSH).

**Tawny Owl** *Strix aluco*

A pair at Gosforth Park fledged four juveniles during the month (NHSN) with one adult seen feeding three on 13th (*per* PCF). An adult fed three large juveniles at Holywell Dene on 12th (JPD) and an adult fed two large juveniles at Warkworth Lane (Ellington) on 12th (TB). Two were at Saley Forest on 11th (DM/ALT/HD) and at Northumberland Park (North Shields) on 29th (MNC) with singles at Dalton, Dipton, Chugdon Wood (Ellington), Haughton Strother, Prestwick Carr, Rothbury, Shiremoor, Spindlestone and Wallington Hall.

**Long-eared owl** *Asio otus*

An adult was seen at a confidential site in the SE of the county on 1st & 14th with young heard in the last week of the month (STH/DM/CGK *et al.*). Singles were found during a moth trapping night at Haughton Strother GP on 30th (MR) and at Simonside on 31st (ASJ).

**Short-eared Owl** *Asio flammeus*

Two were seen at Stobswood Pools on 2nd (ADM) with singles at Arcot Pond from 2nd - 6th (LJM/DM/STH), Druridge Pools on 2nd (TB), Budle Bay on 3rd (GPK) and Shieldbridge (Allendale) on 11th (DM).

**Nightjar** *Caprimulgus europaeus*

Four or five were at Winnows Hill (nr. Slaley) on 31st (JPD/MPF/AS).

**Swift** *Apus apus*

The first returning birds were sighted on 4<sup>th</sup>, there being three at West Ord (Berwick) (MHu) and one at Rothbury (JMA) with numerous single-figure sightings on the next three days and one multiple count of 20 at Corbridge on 6th (RMH). On 8th larger numbers were seen, the highest counts being 130 at Killingworth Lake during rain (CGK/AJ) and 60 at Lynemouth (TB) with 50 at Arcot Pond on 9th (LJM) and 50 at Swallow Pond building to 80 by 20th (JPD/MPF/AS). One to 36 were seen at 26 widely spread places. Three pairs over Stamfordham on 15th were reduced from 6-7 pairs a few years ago (EC).

**Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*

A pair was at Gosforth Park NR during the month (NHSN) with a pair displaying at Gosforth on 10th (MJC) and single at Acomb on 1st (AJH), Haughton Strother GP (Humshaugh) on 9th (MR), Highford Bridge (nr. Morpeth) on 20th (ADM) and Low Angerton on 30th (IRD).

**Wryneck** *Jynx torquilla*

One was found at Newbiggin on 21st (AT).

**Green Woodpecker** *Picus viridis*

A pair was at Gosforth Park NR with the male heard yaffling on numerous occasions during the month (NHSN/MJC *et al.*). Singles were N of Dipton Burn on 8th (AB/LB), Oak Park Wood (Hartburn) on 11th (TRD/JD), Arcot Pond on 15th (SPP), Blakehopeburnhaugh and Comb (near Falstone) on 17th (JD/JR), Dye House (Juniper) on 18th (RMH), Arcot Lane on 21st (SPP), Kylee Hills on 25th (GPK) and Hepburn Woods on 27th & 29th (JD/JMA).

**Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major*

Two pairs were nesting at Holywell Dene, the adults visiting a nearby garden at Old Hartley (RJP), with four also at Jesmond Dene and Gosforth Park where juveniles were seen (MJCo/DHWP/NHSN). Two were at Valley Park (Cramlington) on 20th & 26th and at Barns Park (Cramlington) on 29th (DM) with singles at eight other widespread locations.

**Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*

Holy Island had three birds on 4th (ADM); all other sightings included single birds at Arcot Pond, Dilston Haughs, Harnham, The Henhole (Cheviots), Holy Island, Hoppen Kiln Pool, Longhorsley, Morpeth and Shieldbridge (Allendale).

**Merlin** *Falco columbarius*

Only three sightings this month all involving single birds in suitable breeding habitat.

**Hobby** *Falco subbuteo*

Single birds were noted at Swallow Pond on 19th (SPP), Ponteland on 29th (MR) and at Simonside on 31st (ASJ).

**Peregrine** *Falco peregrinus*

Pairs were at two confidential sites and single birds were at two other sites throughout the month. Two birds were also at Budle Bay on 8th (JPD) and a single was seen near Felton over the A1 on 14th (MSH).

**Red backed Shrike** *Lanius collurio*

Males were at Bamburgh Castle on 25th (SM), between Green Lane – Bothal Pond (Ashington) on 26th (TB/AT) and at Holy Island on 28th-29th (TRD/GB) where a second male joined it on 30th (IK).

One of the Red-backed Shrikes on Holy Island  
by Mike Carr on 30th May

**Woodchat Shrike** *Lanius senator*

A female was at Hemscott Hill between Cresswell and Druridge on 5th - 6th (TB *et al.*).







A Red-backed Shrike on Holy Island by Tim Dean on 28th May

#### **Magpie** *Pica pica*

The peak monthly count at Howdon was 14 on 31st (CB) with five in a Walbottle garden on 11th (KR/LR) and three in Jesmond Dene on 25th (MJCo).

#### **Jay** *Garrulus glandarius*

During the month two were at Gosforth Park NR (NHSN), at Widdrington on 1st (TRD) and Holystone Oaks on 26th (AB/LB) with singles at eight other locations.

Two 'cousins' top: a Jay in a Woolsington garden by John Littleton and below: a Jackdaw over Howdon Wetland by Colin Bradshaw

#### **Jackdaw** *Corvus monedula*

A peak count of 44 at Howdon on 18th (CB), ten at Crag Lough on 17th (IJ), in a Walbottle garden on 18th (KR/LR), nine in Jesmond Dene on 20th and one at Welton (Whittle Dene) on 13th (MJCo).

#### **Rook** *Corvus frugilegus*

Three raided garden feeders at Dinnington on 7th (PCF) and were present at Hemscott Hill on 6th (IJ).

#### **Carrion Crow** *Corvus corone*

The Blyth Estuary held 38 on 20th (AT), 28 was the maximum monthly count at Howdon on 31st (CB) with 21 on a flooded field at Whitelea Chase (Cramlington) on 2nd (STH), seven in Jesmond Dene on 4th (MJCo) and one to three at seven other locations including two occupied nests at the Common and Whemley (Longhorsley).



**Hooded Crow** *Corvus cornix*

One flew up the western edge of Cresswell Pond to Bell's Dunes on 1st (TRD).

**Raven** *Corvus corax*

Two were seen in the Harthope Valley on 14th & 18th (TB/TRD/JD/CGK/GPK) with one at Buby's Wood (Breamish Valley) on 27th (LJM) and flying onto the beach at Beadnell Flash on 10th (TB).

**Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus*

More than six sang at Dipton Wood on 11th (DM/ALT/HD) with two at Jesmond Dene on 25th (MJCo) and singles at Allen Banks, Cramlington, Prestwick Carr and Prudhoe.

**Firecrest** *Regulus ignicapilla*

A single was found singing in the sycamores in the vicar's garden on Holy Island on 30th. The bird was elusive but eventually seen in the open (GB).

**Blue Tit** *Cyanistes caeruleus*

Nesting was confirmed in an Old Hartley Garden with one to four birds during the month (RJP), two was the peak count in a Walbottle garden (KR/LR) with one at Jesmond Dene and Gosforth Park (MJCo).

**Great Tit** *Parus major*

Up to six visited an Old Hartley Garden during the month with nesting confirmed there (RJP) and in a pole adjacent to the level crossing at Dam Dykes (Cramlington). One to three were at Gosforth Park, Jesmond Dene and Walbottle.



A Great Tit male which raised a brood alone after the female died.  
A Gosforth garden  
by Simon Elliott

**Coal Tit** *Periparus ater*

A peak count of four at Jesmond Dene on 4th (MJCo) with one to three at Gosforth Park, Holywell Dene and Rockcliffe (Whitley Bay).

**Willow Tit** *Poecile montanus*

All reports of singles, in an Old Hartley Garden on 6th (RJP), carrying food at the Moor and at Beacon Hill (Longhorsley) on 13th (AB/LB/TB), Prestwick Carr on 14th (PCF) and Rothbury on 15th (JD).

**Marsh Tit** *Poecile palustris*

Two were at Linden Hall (Longhorsley) on 11th with a single there on 4th (NFO) and at Rothbury on 15th (JD).



**Bearded Tit** *Panurus biarmicus*

Confidential sites in South East Northumberland held two males on 11th and 31st (ADMc/NFO/IRD) and one male in North Northumberland on 2nd and 4th (MJC/ADM/SR/AH).



A male Bearded Tit in the reeds at a Northumberland site by Neil Osborne on 31st May

**Skylark** *Alauda arvensis*

A high count of 45 singing birds at Otterburn Ranges on 15th, 30 at Simonside on 31st (ASJ), 12 at Welton (Whittle Dene) on 13th (MJCo) with eight at Holywell on 1st, six at St Mary's and Barrowburn (Upper Coquetdale) on the same date and five at Longhorsley Moor on 13th.



A Skylark singing at Longframlington Common  
by Janet Dean

**Hirundine sp.**

A flock feeding over Bamburgh Golf course in rain numbered around 60 on 4<sup>th</sup>, being Swallows and Sand Martins in ratio three to one (ADM).

**Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia*

More than 180 were at Haughton Strother GP (Humshaugh) on 1st (MR), 50+ at Lynemouth Flash on 6th (MSH), 30 at Branton GP on 7th (TRD/JD), 18 at Dilston Haughs on 12th (MJC/ADM) and one to ten at Arcot Pond, Corbridge, Doddington Bridge, Howdon, Prestwick Carr and Tynemouth.

**Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*

Killingworth Lake had large gatherings of 150+ on 24th and 100+ on 22nd (JPD) with 50 at Arcot Pond on 9th (LJM), 35 at Langleeford (Harthope Valley) on 14th and two to nine at four other locations. Nest building was reported from Belsay Hall, the hide at Holy Island Lough, Wellfield Allotments (Holywell Dene) and Foxhunters Industrial Estate (Whitley Bay).

A handsome Swallow on Holy Island  
by Adriana Buskin on 14th May

**House Martin** *Delichon urbica*

Large counts of 250+ and 200+ at Killingworth Lake on 24th & 22nd (JPD/MPF/AS), around 50 were at West Ord (Berwick) on 11th (MHu), 41 at Bothal Pond on 28th (IRD), 30 at Arcot Pond on 9th (LJM), 20 at St Mary's on 1st (ASJ) and 15 at Langleeford (Harthope Valley) on 14th (AB/LB). One to six were at seven other locations with five active nests noted at St George's Park (Morpeth) on 18th (DM) and Belsay Hall on 21st (KR/LR).

**Long-tailed Tit** *Aegithalos caudatus*

The largest groups were all family parties with eight to 11 reported from Arcot Pond, Holywell, Snods Edge, Valley Park (Cramlington) and Whitley Bay and six at Holywell Dene and Rothbury. Further confirmation of successful breeding included a pair feeding young in a nest at Corbridge and a pair with fledged young at St Mary's Wetland, the latter probably the first breeding record for the site (MSH). Two to five were also reported from Ellington, Elswick and Jesmond Dene.

**Eastern Bonelli's Warbler** *Phylloscopus orientalis*

A bird reported from Newbiggin on 3rd will be the second county record if accepted (AT).

**Wood Warbler** *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Up to five were reported from the favoured Allen Banks area on 5th (JPD/MPF/ASw). Another singing male was at nearby Langley Castle on 5th (ALT) and another at Sidwood (Tarsset Burn) on 17th (JR).



A Wood Warbler at the favoured site of Allen Banks by Jonathan Farooqi



**Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita*

On Holy Island passage birds included 17 on 2nd (MJC/ADM), seven on 4th and one to four thereafter to the end of the month. Inland, 16 singing males were found in 4km of roadside habitat at Beacon Hill (Longhorsley) on 15th (ASJ); nine were at Jesmond Dene on 4th (MJCo) and four to seven at Belsay Hall, Holywell Dene, Longhorsley Common, Longhorsley Moor and West Dipton Burn. Nest building was noted at Longhorsley Common and Tynemouth and one to three birds were reported from a further six localities.



A Chiffchaff at Eachwick by Chris Barlow

**Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus*

There were some impressive counts of singing birds, the largest of which was 37 (in 4km) at Beacon Hill (Longhorsley) on 15th. Elsewhere were 23 at Wingates on 15th, 21 at Branton on 26th, 20 at Harthope on 8th and 18 at Ingram on 26th (all ASJ). Nine singing birds were noted at Holystone on 26th and at Longhorsley Moor on 13th and five at Dilston Haughs, Howdon and Welton (near Whittle Dene Reservoirs). One to two were noted at a further six breeding localities and one to four passage birds were at Holy Island throughout the month.

**Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*

By far the highest count was 13 singing males at Holywell Dene on 2nd (ASJ). Jesmond Dene held six on 11th (MJCo) and six at Marden Quarry (Whitley Bay) on 19th included two females gathering food (KWY). Elsewhere four to five were noted at Belsay Hall, Haughton Strother GP (Humshaugh) and Longhorsley Moor and three were at Howdon. Three passage birds were on Holy Island on 2nd and a late bird found here on 29th-30th. One to two were reported from a further ten localities.



Top a Blackcap singing  
An Eachwick garden  
Chris Barlow

**Garden Warbler** *Sylvia borin*

The species was well reported this month, from a total of 31 localities. Four at Lambley (South Tyne) on 14th was the observer's first record here for some years (MRS). Three singing birds were noted at Carey Burn (Harthope Valley) on 12th, at Derwent Reservoir on 10th and at Haughton Strother (Humshaugh) on 9th and two were at Branton GP and Ford Moss. The remaining reports were all of single birds, mainly in song in potential breeding areas ranging from Fontburn Reservoir, Harthope Valley, Holystone and Rothbury in the north to Arcot Pond, Ponteland and West Hartford in the south-east and to the west at Allerwash. More unusual was a singing bird in a Gosforth Garden Village garden on 2nd. Young were being fed in a nest at Haughton Strother by 30th.



A Garden Warbler at Bolam Woods by Chris Barlow

**Lesser Whitethroat** *Sylvia curruca blythi*

Single passage birds were at Holy Island on 2nd, 11th and 29th, rising to three on 30th (MJC). Other singles were noted at Prior's Park (Tynemouth) on 5th, Newbiggin on 7th and Budle Point, the latter however was holding territory here throughout the month. Birds in potential breeding areas were two at Holywell on 2nd and at Howdon on 25th and singles at Arcot Lane, Arcot Pond, Backworth, Berwick Castle, Brier Dene Farm (Whitley Bay), Branxton, East Chevington, Pegswood, Ponteland and Woodhorn Flashes.

**Whitethroat** *Sylvia communis*

This was another well reported species in May, most notably along the Holywell Waggonway, where a 6km cycle ride on 10th produced a total of 41 singing males (ASJ). Elsewhere, 16 were noted at Swallow Pond on 20th (JPD), 15 at Prestwick Carr on 2nd were mostly singing males (IK), 11 singing males were at Cramlington (Whitelea) on 6th (LJM), 11 at Backworth on 8th (SPP) and ten were singing in 1km at Holywell Dene on 23rd (LJM). Six to eight were also reported from Arcot Pond, Dissington, East Chevington, St Mary's Island and Tynemouth. On higher ground four were in Upper Coquetdale on 15th and three were singing from lower heather slopes on the Simonside Hills on 31st. One to two were noted at a further 14 mainly coastal localities, including Holy Island where a bird was singing in a suitable breeding area. Nest building was in progress at Prestwick Carr by 15th.

**Grasshopper Warbler** *Locustella naevia*

In the well-watched Cramlington study area, a minimum of 21 territories have been located so far this year, including eight in the Arcot Pond area and five at West Hartford (STH *et al.*). Five 'reeling' birds were heard at East Chevington on 5th (TRD/JD) and at Prestwick Carr on 2nd (IK) and three were at St Mary's Wetland on 8th (IJ). Elsewhere singles were noted at Backworth Pond, Bradford Kaims, Budle Point, Cresswell Pond, Druridge Pools and Spindleston.

**Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

A total of 23 were singing / displaying along 2km of track at Prestwick Carr on 2nd (IK) and 21 over a similar distance on 18th (PCF). Gosforth Park held up to 12 during the month and on Holy Island five to nine were noted throughout, many of which were singing males. Counts of six to eight came from Backworth, Welton (nr. Whittle Dene Reservoirs) and Woodhorn Flashes, while four were noted at Arcot Pond, Bamburgh and St Mary's Wetland. One to three were reported from a further 15 localities.





A Sedge Warbler singing at Cresswell by Tim Dean on 13th May

**Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

The favoured locality at Gosforth Park NR held up to six singing males throughout the month (MJC). Reedbed habitat at Cresswell Pond and East Chevington supported up to three at each site, while two were singing at Bates Minewater Treatment Works (Blyth) on 17th and at Holy Island Lough from 23rd. Singles were also noted at Holywell Pond on 13th and 20th and at Woodhorn Flashes on 28th.

**Nuthatch** *Sitta europaea*

Up to four, including juveniles were noted at Gosforth Park NR (NHSN) and a pair was feeding young in a nest at Jesmond Dene during the month (DHWB) and a bird was at a nest site at Henshaw on 11th. One to two were also reported from Arcot Hall GC, Comb (Falstone), Hesleyside, Holywell Dene, Rothbury and Todburn (Longhorsley).

**Treecreeper** *Certhia familiaris*

One to two were at Beacon Hill (Longhorsley), Blakehopeburnhaugh (adult and juvenile), Clennell, Dipton Wood and East Hartford Wood.

**Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Seven were reported from Hawsen Burn (Harthope Valley) on 14th and at Longhorsley Moor from 13th-26th (AB/LB) and five in Jesmond Dene on 20th. One to three were noted at a further five localities.

A Wren at Harwood on 26th May  
by Janet Dean

**Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*

A flock of 200 was at Warkworth on 28th (JMA) and 100 were roosting in the reed beds at Gosforth Park NR during the month (NHSN). Lesser gatherings of 40-80 at Gosforth Garden Village, Longhorsley Common, West Hartford and Whitley Bay included lots of juveniles and family parties were prominent on Holy Island during the month. A pair visited a nest at Windyhaugh (Upper Coquetdale) on 6th.



**Dipper** *Cinclus cinclus*

A pair accompanied five juveniles at Carey Burn on 3rd (JMA); further pairs were seen with three juveniles at Rothbury on 11th (JMA) and two juveniles at Allen Banks on 2nd (JSB). A second brood was being fed at Jesmond Dene from 7th (DHWB). Two fledged young were at Harthope Valley on 18th and one to two adults were noted at Blakehopeburnhaugh, Allerwash, Craggside, Holywell Dene, Sipton Burn, Spartylea and Usway Burn.

A Dipper in the Harthope valley  
by Tim Dean on 24th May

**Ring Ouzel** *Turdus torquatus*

In the Harthope Valley two were at Hawsen Burn on 3rd and 14th (male and female) and one on 17th and a male was at Langleeford on 14th. In Upper Coquetdale a male was noted at Fullhope on 4th and another male was in the area on 15th. Singles were also reported from Holy Island on 2nd, Derwent Reservoir on 3rd and Sipton Burn (Allendale) on 11th.

**Blackbird** *Turdus merula*

Marden Estate (Tynemouth) held 41 singing males all month (ASJ). Ten were at Belsay Hall on 21st, seven in Jesmond Dene on 20th and four at Walbottle and Welton (near Whittle Dene Reservoirs) on 11th and 13th respectively. One to three were reported from a further five localities including a late migrant at Holy Island on 30th.

**Fieldfare** *Turdus pilaris*

Singles were at Holy Island and Prestwick Carr on 2nd, ten were noted at Longhorsley on 8th (ASJ) and the final bird was on Holy Island on 11th (ADM).

**Song Thrush** *Turdus philomelos*

Nine, including a pair feeding young, were found in the Harthope Valley on 8th (ASJ). Up to four were noted in Jesmond Dene and one to two at Belsay Hall, Howdon, Longhorsley Moor and Welton.

**Mistle Thrush** *Turdus viscivorus*

Twelve at Allendale on 3rd was the largest gathering (ASJ). Six were in Jesmond Dene on 4th and two at Harwood Forest on 10th. A bird was carrying food at Comb (Falstone) on 3rd, two juveniles were at Cocklawburn on 12th and a pair was nest building again at Tynemouth on 19th.

**Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata*

Rather scarce so far this year with most reports coming from higher ground. The peak count was ten singing males in the Harthope Valley on 18th (CGK/GPK). Holy Island held six migrants on 20th, rising to nine on 21st with three present on 30th (ADM/MJC). Four were at Beacon Hill (Longhorsley) and at Lordenshaw on 31st and three at Linden Hall on 24th and at Spindlestone on 19th. One to two were also reported from Allen Banks, Allendale, Alnham, Blakehopeburnhaugh, Bradford, Breamish Valley, Byrness, College Valley, Hartburn, Holystone, Low Newton, Lucker, Sidwood (Tarset Burn), Steel Rigg, St Mary's Island, Tynemouth and Wellhope Moor.

A bird in a garden at Stamfordham on 11th was the earliest record on 12 years (EC).

A Spotted Flycatcher in the Simonsides by  
Alan Jack

**Robin** *Erithacus rubecula*

11 singing males were at Longhorsley Moor on 19th (AB/LB) and four in Jesmond Dene on 11th. On Holy Island four were noted on 2nd and two, including a juvenile in the Vicar's Garden, on 20th. Three at Belsay Hall and one in a Walbottle garden were the only other reports.



**Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Allen Banks held up to five singing males from 2nd-15th (TF/JFa *et al.*) and eight singing by 30th (EC). Four (three males) were at Morrale Wood on 2nd (JSB), four males were noted at Nunnykirk on 8th (ASJ) and two (one singing) were at Hollybush (Dipton Woods) on 4th. One to two coastal migrants were on Holy Island on 21st and 27th.

**Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochruros*

One at Holy Island (Crooked Lonnen) on 2nd had been present since late April (MJC/ADM).

**Redstart** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

At Beacon Hill (Longhorsley), 11 singing males were located in 4km of roadside trees on 8th, and by 15th a pair were feeding young in the nest (ASJ). Eight singing males were heard at Holystone Woods on 26th, six birds were noted at Wallington Hall on 3rd and four singing males at Allen Banks on 5th, Haughton Strother (Humshaugh) on 9th and at Harthope Valley and Lambley on 14th. One to three were also reported from potential breeding areas at Blakehopeburnhaugh, Bolam, Derwent Reservoir, Dipton Woods, Eals, Fontburn Reservoir, Ford Moss, Hartburn, Harwood Forest, Linden Hall, Longframlington, Mitford, Prestwick Carr, Rothbury, Slaley, Wellhope Moor and West Dipton Burn. Five passage birds were on Holy Island on 2nd and two on 30th, while another at Tynemouth on 1st had been present since 30th April.



Above: a male Redstart at Ingram and below: a Whinchat at Beacon Hill, both photographs by Alan Jack

**Whinchat** *Saxicola rubetra*

There were numerous reports from Upper Coquetdale where 14 singing males were noted on 15th, together with nine singing males in a 1km transect of moorland at Alwinton (ASJ). In the same area further reports included eight at Clennell on 20th, three males in the Alwin Valley on 5th and singles at Barrowburn, Blindburn, Bygate and Holystone. In the Cheviot Hills, four were at Ewartly Shank on 5th and up to five+ in the Harthope Valley and four in the Breamish Valley. In the Simonside area a male was seen on 31st, and a juvenile at Hepple Whitefield on 26th suggested early breeding success. A singing male was at Burradon (Cramlington) on 2nd, while coastal migrants were at Cresswell Pond on 2nd, Cocklawburn on 8th and Holy Island on 21st.

**Stonechat** *Saxicola rubicola*

Breeding success was noted on the coast with family parties at Budle Bay, Cheswick Dunes (four juveniles), Druridge Pools/Links (two pairs and up to two juveniles), East Chevington (up to three pairs and four juveniles), Embleton GC (two juveniles), Stag Rocks (three juveniles) and Warkworth Gut (two juveniles). Elsewhere on the coast, two pairs were at Warkworth Wetlands and one to two adults at Boulmer, Cocklawburn, Monks' House Pool, Newbiggin, Newton Pool and Snab Point (Cresswell). Three passage birds were at Holy Island (Snook) on 30th. There was an encouraging number of inland reports with two males at Debdon (Rothbury) on 5th and pairs on Hexhamshire Common on 17th, Holystone Common on 26th and Kyoel Hills on 25th. A female was at Hawsen Burn on 17th and a male on the Simonside Hills on 31st.



**Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Holy Island witnessed almost continual passage during the month, with peaks of 31 on 11th, 20-21 from 2nd-4th and ten on 9th and 18th; one to six were noted on a further four dates (ADM/MJC *et al.*). Elsewhere five to seven were noted at Budle Bay, Cramlington (*Northumberlandia*), Cresswell Pond, Doddington and Prestwick Carr and four at Backworth and Warkworth Gut. One to three were reported from a further 24 widespread coastal and inland breeding localities.

A Wheatear on Holy Island by Adriana Buskin

**Dunnock** *Prunella modularis*

Three were in an Old Hartley garden during the month (RJP) and three in Welton BBS Square near Whittle Dene on 13th (MJCo). Singles were noted at Druridge Pools, Jesmond Dene and a garden in Walbottle.

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*

Six at feeders in Tynemouth was the largest group reported (CB). Five were in a garden at Wallbottle on 25th (KR/LR). One was noted in Welton BBS Square near Whittle Dene on 13th.



A cock House Sparrow on Holy Island  
9th May by Tim Dean

**Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus*

15+ were noted at Haughton Strother GP on 9th where at least six nests were also recorded (MR). 10+ were at Waren Mill Caravan Park throughout the month (CGK/GPK). 10 were noted at Berwick Hill on 5th, Brier Dene Farm (Whitley Bay) on 17th and a garden in Walbottle on 25th. One to six were at five other sites.

**Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava flavissima*

Eight were at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 5th (SR) and five+ at Bell's Farm (Hemscott Hill) on 6th (MSH). Four were at Hoppen Kiln Flash on 2nd. Later in the month two were noted at Cresswell Pond on 18th and 24th and at West Ord (Berwick) on 26th. Singles were noted from Low Newton, Druridge, Dilston Haughs and Haughton Strother GPs.



**Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*

Five were at Allen Banks on 5th including a pair visiting a nest with food (TF/JFa). Four were at Jesmond Dene on 4th (MJCo). The same number at the Carey Burn on 12th and Holystone on 31st included two adults and two fledged young at both sites (MJC/ASJ). An adult and juvenile were also noted at Lilburn on 20th. One-two were recorded at 11 other sites including one on The Snook, (Holy Island) on 2nd.

A Grey Wagtail  
Harthope Valley  
by Tim Dean  
14th May

**Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla alba yarrelli*

Breeding activity included 12 pairs around Holy Island village (IK), eight breeding pairs in Upper Coquetdale on 15th (ASJ). Four were at the Carey Burn on 12th. Two at Steel Rigg car park on 17th. One was noted nest building at Wedder's Leap on 3rd.

**White Wagtail** *Motacilla alba*

Individuals were noted at Warkworth Gut on 4th (NFO) and West Ord Berwick on 11th (MHu).

**Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis*

Four displayed at Slaley on 3rd. By the 31st five were noted displaying at Holystone, and four at Simonside. Three were noted in the Harthope Valley on 14th and two at Old Park Wood, Acton Fell, Kellas Plantation, Slaley and Tilhill Plantation (Dipton). Singles were at a further six sites.

**Meadow Pipit** *Anthus pratensis*

63 displaying individuals were noted on the Otterburn Ranges on 15th and 22 on Simonside on 31st (ASJ). 14 were at Longhorsley Moor on 14th. Nest-building was noted at Longframlington and a nest with four eggs was found at Holy Island on 2nd, it or another having four chicks by 18th that fledged by 29th.



A Meadow Pipit with young to feed, by Mike Carr on Holy Island

**Rock Pipit** *Anthus petrosus*

Four at Dunstanburgh Castle on 18th included a fledged juvenile (TM). Two were at Cullernose Point on 16th and singles were noted at Rockcliffe., Whitley Bay, Craster, Seahouses and Stag Rocks during the month.

**Brambling** *Fringilla montifringilla*

A late individual was noted at Holy Island on 23rd (AH).



Above left a cock Chaffinch at Eachwick by Chris Barlow and right  
a female Linnet at Druridge by Tim Dean

**Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs*

40 at Gatehouse on 3rd (JR) was the largest flock noted in the month. 10 were in a BBS Square at Welton (Whittle Dene) on 13th. Seven were at Jesmond Dene on 20th and one-five at Holywell Dene, Gosforth Park and in a Walbottle garden.

**Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Up to four visited a garden in Old Hartley during the month and two nests were found in nearby Holywell Dene (RJP). Four were also at Spindleston on 19th (CGK). Three were noted in Berwick on 7th and Juliet's Wood near Sleafy on 14th. Two/pairs at Northburn and Valley Park areas of Cramlington, Jesmond Dene, Howdon, a Walbottle garden and Marden Quarry.

**Greenfinch** *Carduelis chloris*

Six in a Walbottle garden was the highest count in the month (KR/LR). Four were noted at Jesmond Dene and one in an Old Hartley garden.

**Linnet** *Linaria cannabina*

32 were at Beacon Hill (Cramlington) on 3rd (DMc) including two singing males. Eight pairs were noted from Holywell on 12th. Four were at St. Mary's Wetland on 8th.

**Lesser Redpoll** *Acanthis cabaret*

60 were at Haughton Strother GPs on 1st (MR). 10 were noted at Beacon Hill (Longhorsley) on 15th and 10+ in the Harthope Valley on 18th. Six-nine were at Castron (5th), Simonside (9th) and Holystone (11th). One-three were at three other sites.

**Common Crossbill** *Loxia curvirostris*

35 were at Hawkhope on 14th (MD), 17 flew over Holystone on 11th (NFO) and seven were in the Kyloe Hills on 25th. Family groups of five were at Hepple on 26th and Simonside on 31st. A slow increase in numbers in the Border Forest at Kielder was noted throughout the month with several areas hosting groups of two-10 (MD).

**Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*

12 at Holywell on 12th (ASJ) consisted of six pairs. Nine were around Wellfield Allotments (Holywell Dene) on 14th. Four at Holywell Dene and a garden in Walbottle were the only other reports.

**Siskin** *Spinus spinus*

Three were at Alnwick on 23rd (JMA). Two were at Spindleston throughout the month (CGK/GPK), on feeders in Rothbury (TRD/JD), in the Harthope Valley on 14th (TB) and at Shildon Cottage (Blanchland) the latter being juveniles.

**Yellowhammer** *Emberiza citrinella*

Eight singing males were noted at Holywell on 2nd (ASJ). Seven were found in a BBS Square at Welton near Whittle Dene on 13th. Six were singing at Beacon Hill (Longhorsley) on 15th. Two singing males were at Dilston Haughs and Longhorsley Common during the month.



**Reed Bunting** *Emberiza Schoeniclus*

11 singing males were noted at St. Mary's on 2nd, eight at Upper Coquetdale on 15th and at East Chevington on 25th (ASJ). Seven singing males at Wingates on 15th and West Hartford on 24th. One-six were at Gosforth Park NR, Simonside, Howdon, Longhorsley Moor and in a BBS Square at Welton near Whittle Dene.

**ESCAPES, HYBRIDS AND BIRDS OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN****Escapes****Black Swan** *Cygnus atratus*

One was on the River Tweed just inland from the railway bridge at Berwick on 16th and seen again on 26th (Mhu/BWG).

**Hybrids****Canada Goose x Barnacle Goose** *Branta canadensis x Branta leucopsis*

Two hybrids were seen at Swallow Pond on 12th in company with a Barnacle Goose (SPP).

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Bamburgh Ringing Station, Berwick Wildlife Group, Natural History Society of Northumbria, Seaton Sluice Watch Tower.

**Apologies for any accidental omissions****BULLETIN COMPILATION AND PRODUCTION**

This bulletin was compiled by Graeme Bowman (Mute Swan to Ruddy Duck), Lindsay McDougall (Red Grouse to Black-necked Grebe), Trevor Blake (Honey-buzzard to Crane), Steve Holliday (Avocet to Godwit), Ian Forsyth (Turnstone to Skua), Eddie Crabtree (Puffin to Great Black-backed Gull), Tim Dean (Escapes, Hybrids and Unknown Origin, List of Contributors, Highlights), Peter Fletcher (Feral Pigeon to Red-rumped Swallow), Mike Richardson (Cetti's Warbler to Pied Flycatcher), Alan Tilmouth (Dunnock to Corn Bunting), Dan Turner (WeBS Coastal Counts) and Steve Holliday (WeBS Inland Counts).

Thanks to David Sanders of NNBC for providing data.

Proof reading was by Mike Smith.

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Mail distribution by Paul Stewart.

**RECORD SUBMISSION**

Please e-mail Dick Myatt at [ntbcorg@gmail.com](mailto:ntbcorg@gmail.com) for a copy of the standard spreadsheet and other details.

Location names and grid references: The use of standard location names and the inclusion of grid references greatly increases the value of records in subsequent analyses. A 1km square grid reference is the ideal e.g. NY8067 for Grindon Lough, but 2km square references (tetrads) are also acceptable e.g. NY86D in this case. A list of localities and their tetrad grid references (tetrad/Locality List) can be downloaded from the 'Resources & Downloads' section of the Club website at <http://www.ntbc.org.uk> – the use of these names, wherever possible, would be highly appreciated.

**Could club members ensure they to submit records direct to NTBC rather than just Birdtrack. There may be an assumption by some members this happens automatically. We do not want to miss records.**

**PHOTOGRAPHS AND ILLUSTRATIONS**

Please keep submitting your articles, photographs, sketches and illustrations for the bulletin. Thanks again to those who have supplied the excellent photographs. Please send to Steve Barrett at [NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com](mailto:NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com)

It is preferable if you re-size your photos before sending and a suggested size is 640 x 480 pixels. Please ensure you include the following information with your submissions: name, species, date taken, locality.

Photographs will not be used elsewhere without the photographer's permission.

**MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Membership costs £30 per year. For membership enquiries please contact [ntbc@jobentley.plus.com](mailto:ntbc@jobentley.plus.com)

**NTBC WEB SITE**

The Club website is an excellent resource for all interested in birds in the north-east. There are numerous interesting sections, including a photograph gallery, site information and trip reports together with extensive reference information for birding in our area. Please submit any new content for the website to the main club email address at

**NTBC SIGHTINGS PAGE**

The Sightings Page contains current sightings by members. Access is from the NTBC website.

Members need to submit a request to be added to the website, specifying the email address they wish to post from before they can submit sightings to [ntbcorg@gmail.com](mailto:ntbcorg@gmail.com)





# Northumberland and Tyneside Bird Club

Registered Charity No. 517641

<http://www.ntbc.org.uk/>

**Bulletin 2014 No 6**

**MONTHLY SUMMARY – JUNE**

**6th August 2014**



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Great North Run sponsorship

St. Mary's Wetland Group



One of our most popular species  
A Kingfisher at Gosforth NR on 26th June by Neil Osborne

## CLASSIFIED LIST HIGHLIGHTS

Egyptian Goose

Single at Druridge Pools and Hauxley

Ruddy Duck

Male at Arcot Pond and Bothal Pond. First in county since 2011

Black-throated Diver

Singles at St Mary's and Holy Island

Bittern

Single summering at Gosforth Park with two there on 28th

Little Bittern

Superb male at Gosforth Park from 22nd to 27th. The only other modern-day record was at St Mary's in 2000

Spoonbill

Up to six at Druridge Pools. Equals record count for county

Black-tailed Godwit

High counts for June at Cresswell Pond with peak of 58 on 4th

Temminck's Stint

Single at Derwent Reservoir from 26th to 30th

Long-tailed Skua

An adult passed Newbiggin on 15th

Little Gull

Mid-summer build up at Cresswell Pond peaked at 26 first-summers

Hobby

Singles at Gosforth Park and Druridge

Red-backed Shrike

Female at St Mary's on 11th.

### Correction

Eastern Bonelli's Warbler

The sighting in May was the second for the county not first. Previous county record at Whitley Bay cemetery in 1995.

## FIELD TRIPS

Steve Anderson's next field trips are;

Sunday Aug. 24th **RSPB Saltholm.**  
 Sunday Sept 21st **Northumberland coast, Cresswell-Hauxley**  
 Sunday Oct 19th **Holy Island**

Any members who are interested in any of the above field trip please email Steve Anderson [seaswan@btinternet.com](mailto:seaswan@btinternet.com)

## INDOOR MEETINGS

NTBC indoor meetings are held at Northern Rugby Club, McCracken Park, Great North Road, Newcastle, NE3 2DT starting at 7.00pm and generally finish between 9.00pm-9.30pm. The first meeting of the 2014-2015 season is on 11th September.

## Northumbrian Bird Atlas – 'Some ups and downs'

Tim Dean, Northumberland Bird Recorder and co-ordinator of Northumberland Bird Atlas.

- Tim will give us the 'low down' on the Northumberland status of a range of species surveyed during the Atlas fieldwork. There is also a chance for a sneak preview on the upcoming publication.

## CLASSIFIED LIST

The following account consists of unchecked reports. The species/subspecies marked \* require descriptions.

A complete list of all sightings that need notes is included in the NTBC website [www.ntbc.org.uk](http://www.ntbc.org.uk) under the County Records Committee section and in Birds in Northumbria 2012 page 236.

The Inland and Coastal Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) tables are at the rear of the bulletin. These contain counts additional to those in the Classified List.

## Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

A peak of 262 was noted at the Tweed Estuary on 12th (MHu), 122 at New Water Haugh (River Tweed) on 1st (MHu), 83 were at Killingworth Lake on 24th (LJM), 51 at Castle Island on 15th (DM/IF/PJA) and 38 at Capheaton Lake on 17th (TRD) and 14-24 at Blyth Estuary, Ladyburn Lake, Branton Gravel Pits, Grindon Lough and Bothal Pond (Coney Garth). One to six were at 14 further sites. Broods were noted as follows:

Locality	No. of broods	No. of young	Observer/notes
Arcot Pond	1	6	LJM. On 8th
Branton Gravel Pits	1	2	LJM On 17th
Hedgeley Gravel Pits	1	5	Per STH. On 15th
Howdon Wetland	1	8	CB. On 2nd
Derwent Reservoir	1	8	JPD. On 31st
Druridge Pools	1	6	TRD/JD. On 2nd
East Chevington	1	8	JPD. On 17th
Gosforth Park NR	1	8	NHSN. By end of month
Holy Island	1	4	MJC/ADM. On 1st
Killingworth Lake	1	4	LJM. On 15th
Linton Ponds	1	5	STH. On 29th
Marden Quarry	1	5	STH. On 29th
Woolsington Ponds	1	3	SRB. On 16th

## Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Just one single reported at Derwent Reservoir with Greylag Geese on 27th (PRM).

## Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

Ca.800 at Derwent Reservoir on 12th (IFo) with 648 from the same site on 27th (PRM). 100 at Marden Quarry on 29th (KWY). 31 were at Branton Gravel Pits on 15th (per STH) and 20 at St Mary's Wetland (IJ) on 7th. Ten to 12 at Ladyburn Lake and Bothal Pond, and two to eight at Blagdon, Linton Ponds, Holywell Dene, Cresswell Pond, Hedgeley Gravel Pits, Leazes Park, Castle Island and Plenmeller Common.

## Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

43 flew N at Tynemouth on 1st (SPP). The largest count was ca.150 at Colt Crag Reservoir on 28th (JL), 87 at Killingworth Lake on 24th (LJM), 78 at Grindon Lough on 1st (PRM) and 78 on 10th at Leazes Park (DM). 57 including 13 young were at Branton Gravel Pits on 15th (KDa), 46 at Tynemouth on 1st (DRW), 38 at Cresswell Pond on 3rd (TRC), a peak count of 61 at Castle Island on 15th (DM/STH/IFo/PJA) and Hedgeley Gravel Pits on 15th (KDa). A peak count of 27 at Linton Ponds on the 8th and 20th (CDH/STH) and 20 at Catcleugh Reservoir on 11th (PRM), 19 at Tynemouth (CB), 17 at Holywell Dene, 13 at Big Waters and 11 at Cresswell Pond and Grindon Lough. One to ten were recorded at a further ten sites.

Canada Goose broods;

Locality	No. of broods/ crèches	No. of young	Observer/notes
Leazes Park	1	1	DM. On 2nd
Druridge Pools	2	5	DM/STH/IFo/PJA. On 15th
Arcot Ponds	1	6	DM. On 15th
Kitty Brewster, River Blyth	1	7	GB. On 12th
Seghill Flash	1	8	JPD. On 29th



**Barnacle Goose** *Branta leucopsis*

Three were on Holy Island on 3rd (SR).

**Brent Goose** *Branta bernicla*

Pale-bellied *hrota* recorded for June on Holy Island with no date or further details (IK).

**Egyptian Goose** *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

Singles were at Druridge Pools on 3rd (TRC) and Hauxley on 24th (JSB/EC) and again on 27th (TB).

**Shelduck** *Tadorna tadorna*

Peak counts were 147 at Budle Bay on 28th (CGK), numbers increased through the month at Cresswell with a peak of 26 including three separate broods noted (IRD/SRB.GB), 20 were at the Blyth Estuary on 14th and one pair with ten young (LJM), Ten to 11 at Howdon (CB) and Castle Island (GB), and four to five at Branton GP and Widdrington Moor Lake. One to two were also at Bothal Pond, Berwick, Lynemouth and Druridge Pools.

Locality	No. of broods/ crèches	No. of young	Observer/notes
Branton GP	1	8	JD/LJM. On 27th
Castle Island	2	22	STH. On 15th
Cresswell Pond	2	19	STH. On 22nd
Kitty Brewster, River Blyth	1	7	GB. On 12th
Seghill Flash	1	8	JPD. On 29th

**Wigeon** *Anas penelope*

Grindon Lough held good numbers with a peak of 41 on 13th and 18th including seven juveniles (PRM) falling to 34 by 17th, 14 were at Plenmeller Common, four at Budle Bay, two to three at Hauxley, Holy Island, Druridge Pools and Cresswell with one in Gosforth Park NR, Hoppen Kiln Flash, River Tweed Estuary and East Chevington.

**Gadwall** *Anas strepera*

Peak counts were 63 at Cresswell Pond on 1st (IRD), 38 at Castle Island on 15th (DM) 30 at Hauxley on 17th (TRD), 25 at Bothal Pond on 16th including eight ducklings (TF/JFa), 23 at Linton Ponds also included eight small young (STH), 17 at Big Waters included two broods of seven and five (GB). Six to eight at Warkworth Lane Ponds, Arcot Pond, Ladyburn Lake, 2 to 4 at Longhirst Flash, Hoppen Kiln Flash and Gosforth Park NR. Breeding was also recorded at Druridge Pools with a female with nine ducklings (TRD), four juveniles at Swallow Pond on 27th and five young at Holywell Pond on 30th (both SPP).

**Teal** *Anas crecca*

Numbers at Grindon Lough fluctuated during the month with one on the 1st, 28 on the 12th back to nine on 13th reaching a peak of 39 on 27th (SJH), a peak of 11 at Druridge Pools on 3rd (TRC) six at East Chevington on 8th (GB) and Plenmeller Common on 26th (PRM), and one to two birds at Bothal and Cresswell Ponds, Big Waters, Monks' House Pool, Swallow Pond, Howdon and the Long Nanny Burn.

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*

75 (61 adults and 14 large young) were at Big Waters on 29th (GB), counts of 53 and 47 were recorded on two stretches of the River Wansbeck in the Morpeth area on two separate dates (PM), 46 at the Tweed Estuary on 12th (MHu) 45 at Gosforth Park NR (NHSN), with counts of 40 from Branton Gravel Pits on 15th (*per* STH), Bothal Pond on 15th (TD), Grindon Lough on 27th (PRM). 20 to 30 were at Greenlee Lough, Cresswell Pond, Leazes Park, Linton Ponds, Bothal Pond, Airy Holm Reservoir and Longhirst Flash and ten to 15 at Druridge Pools, Castle Island, Berwick and the Civic Centre Ponds with counts of one to nine at a further nine sites.

In April a record for Bothal Pond should have read 12 not 112 birds.

Breeding recorded during the months as follows:

Locality	No. of broods	No. of young	Observer/notes
Castle Island	3	29 (11,9,90)	PM. On 15th
Chevington North Pool	1	3	M. On 15th
Grindon Lough	3	14 (1,6,7)	PRM. On 27th
Bothal Pond (Coney Garth)	3	26 (10,10,6)	GB. On 8th
Longhirst Flash	2	8 (5,3)	TD. On 1st
Big Waters	3	16 (12,4)	GB. On 18th
Druridge Pools	3	19 (7,8,4)	GB. On 8th
Branton GP	1	9	LJM. On 8th
Lynemouth	2	9 (6,3)	GB. On 12th
St.Mary's Wetland	1	5 (down to 3)	IJ. On 1st and 7th
Swallow Pond	1	9	JD. On 8th

**Garganey** *Anas querquedula*

Three (two drakes, one pristine, one 'shabby') were at Druridge Pools on 8th (GB), while two drakes were at Cresswell Pond on 2nd (TRD/JD,ADM). Single drakes were also recorded at Druridge Pools on 3rd and 10th (TRC,MSH,LJM,ADM) and at Cresswell Pond on 1st and 3rd (IRD,MSH).

**Shoveler** *Anas clypeata*

Largest counts were six (five drakes) at Druridge Pools on 3rd (TRC) and Monks' House Pool where three pairs were present all month. Four were at Cresswell Pond (three drakes) on 3rd (TRD/JD). One to two were also at the Grindon Lough, Bell's Farm Pond and East Chevington.

**Pochard** *Aythya ferina*

Killingworth Lake held a peak of 19 (17 drakes) on 19th (LJM) with nine to fifteen on several other dates between 17th-27th (TRD/TB). Ten adults and two ducklings were at Holywell Pond on 30th (SPP). A peak of eight adults were at Arcot Pond and a female with five 'smallish' young on 8th (GB) and 2 broods of five and four by 22nd (STH), seven were at Bothal Pond on 27th the peak count for the site during the month (TF/JFa). Six were at Gosforth Park (NHSN) and six adults at Swallow Pond on 27th with two ducklings (SPP), three to four at Swallow Pond 2nd (CDH) Druridge Pools and Cresswell Pond. A single male at Hauxley Reserve was recorded on several dates from 1st to 9th and a female at Burradon Pond in Cramlington on 15th (LJM).

**Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula*

Three flew S at St Mary's on 24th (JPD). The largest counts were all from Cresswell Pond with 26 the lowest and a peak of 51 on 12th (TRC), 34 was the peak count at Bothal Pond on 29th (TF/JFa), 30 at Widdrington Moor Lake (GB) and 19 at Linton Ponds (CDH) and ten to 20 at Grindon Lough, Castle Island, Leazes Park and Arcot Pond. Two to nine were at Jesmond Dene, Airy Holm Reservoir, Derwent Reservoir, Howdon, Rothley Lakes, Gosforth Park NR, Monks' House Pool, Middle Ord pond in Berwick, Holy Island Lough. A 'newish' brood of six was also recorded on 23rd (IFO).

**Scaup** *Aythya marila*

Two were reported at Hauxley NWT on 1st (NFo).



A young Eider at Seahouses by Jonathan Farooqi on 15th June

**Eider** *Somateria mollissima*

53 were reported in the Newbiggin area on 26th (STH), the WeBS count recorded 14 at Berwick North Shore on 11th and 10 were at Berwick Meadow Haven on 22nd (both MHu). One or two were at St Mary's Wetland and Rockcliffe in Whitley Bay.

Locality	No. of broods/ crèches	No. of young	Observer/notes
Fisherman's Haven, Berwick	1	4	MHu. On 11th
Hauxley	4	18	IFo. On 23rd
Budle Bay	1	19	CGK. On 28th
River Blyth Estuary, Sleekburn confluence	2	5 (2,3)	LJM. On 14th (Observer thinks first confirmed breeding on Blyth Estuary)



**Long-tailed Duck** *Clangula hyemalis*

A 1st-summer male was reported as present all month at Derwent Reservoir (IFo) and a female at the same site on 27th (PRM)

**Common Scoter** *Melanitta nigra*

Coastal passage involved a total of 260 N in an hour at Tynemouth (DRW), 58 S at Church Point, Newbiggin on 15th (TRC) and 26 N on 15th (DM/STH/IFo/PJA). 35 flew N at Blyth South Harbour on 14th (LJM), 27 flew N at St. Mary's Island on 20th (JPD) and 22 N on 29th (MSH). and 20 N at Tynemouth on 15th (SPP). In Druridge Bay 250 were noted on 22nd (STH), 65 offshore at East Chevington on 22nd (NFO) 50 at Snab point on 8th (JL), 36 were at Cheswick on 9th (MHu), and 20-22 were off Stag Rocks, Bamburgh, Hauxley and St. Mary's Island. 12-17 were at Tynemouth, Newbiggin and Rockcliffe; Whitley Bay. Finally a single drake was on the East Chevington North Pool on 7th (NFO) and 15th (DM/STH/IFo/PJA).

**Velvet Scoter** *Melanitta fusca*

No records for June

**Goldeneye** *Bucephala clangula*

Four were at East Chevington on 2nd (IFo) and one on 6th (TRD/JD). Breeding data (as April) were as follows:

Locality	No. of broods	No. of young	Observer/notes
North Northumberland	1	5	TRD/JD <i>et al.</i> All month. Recorded as large young on 7th, Reduced to two by 22nd

**Red-breasted Merganser** *Mergus serrator*

Birds were noted as present all month at Budle Bay with a peak of 12 on 22nd (CGK,GPK).

**Goosander** *Mergus merganser*

The River Tweed saw the peak counts for the month with 38 on the WeBS count on 12th and 52 on 26th (MHu), and 11 were noted at Berwick North Shore on 16th (MHu). Other peak counts were 37 off St Cuthbert's Island on Holy Island on 8th (ADM), 14 at Cocklawburn on 16th (MHu), six to nine at New Water Haugh, Calot Shad (both on River Tweed), West Ord (all MHu), and Berwick Fisherman's Haven (BWG). Five 'female types' were on the River Blyth at Kitty Brewster (GB). One to three were also at Airy Holm Reservoir, Amble Braid, Whitley Bay, Upper Coquetdale and Tynemouth. Two females at Blyth Estuary were accompanying two separate groups of eight and four young on 14th (ASH)

**Ruddy Duck** *Oxyura jamaicensis*

A drake was recorded at Bothal Pond on 16th (TF/JFa) with another record at Arcot Pond on 18th (STH) which was still present and well observed the following day. No further reports until 27th when the finder at Arcot Pond saw it again (STH) and a further report on 28th (SPP).

**Quail** *Coturnix coturnix*

The species continued to be scarce this year with only singles being reported. One was heard and seen at Spindleston on 2nd (GPK), one was again heard near Mootlaw Quarry (Ryal) on 8th (ALT), another was singing in a barley field at Whiteadder Point (Berwick) on 15th (MHu) and one was calling in a large wheat field at Humshaugh on 22nd (JWP).

**Red-legged Partridge** *Alectoris rufa*

The peak count was four at Widdrington on 28th (GB). One to two were noted at Heighley Gate Garden Centre (Morpeth), Longhirst, Longhorsley Moor and Millshield (Derwent Reservoir).

**Black Grouse** *Tetrao tetrix*

As in May all records came from Allendale. Five males were at Swinhope Shield on 8th (STH), three males were in the Sipton area on 28th (MJC/ASH) and one male was on Plenmeller Common on 26th (PRM).

**Grey Partridge** *Perdix perdix*

Five were at Annitsford on 19th (STH). Elsewhere pairs were noted at Kenton Bank Foot (Newcastle), West Ord and Widdrington. Singles were noted at Linden Hall (Longhorsley) and Ord Moor (Berwick).

**Pheasant** *Phasianus colchicus*

Four were in a Walbottle garden on 1st (KR/LR) and a single was at Hartley West Farm (Holywell Dene)

**Red-throated Diver** *Gavia stellata*

Three were at St Mary's Island on 20th (JPD). Two were at Snab Point on 8th (JL) and singles were noted offshore at East Chevington on 8th/22nd.

**Black-throated Diver** *Gavia arctica*

One flew N at St Mary's Island on 20th (JPD/MPF/AS) and one was in Coves Haven (Holy Island) on 10th (SR).

**Fulmar** *Fulmarus glacialis*

At Needle's Eye 12 nests were noted on 11th (MHu). Ten pairs were noted during the month at Rockcliffe (Whitley Bay) (JMA/IJ) and ten nests at Dunstanburgh Castle on 5th (JMA). One to four were noted at Newbiggin St Mary's Island and Wetland, Snab Point, and the Tweed Estuary.

**Manx Shearwater** *Puffinus puffinus*

Light N passage was noted during the month. At St Mary's Island 17 were noted on 20th (JPD) with seven there on 28th and four on 29th. Nine were at Church Point (Newbiggin) on 29th (TRC), seven at Rockcliffe (Whitley Bay) on 15th (IJ), when four were flying past Tynemouth Priory. Five also passed here on 29th, when four flew N at St Mary's Island. One to three were noted at Newbiggin, Snab Point and Rockcliffe on three dates from 15th-19th.

**Gannet** *Morus bassanus*

At Berwick Pier 700/hour flew N in a strong N wind on 29th (MHu). At Newbiggin 20+ flew N on 15th (DM/STH/IFo/PJA). 140+ were feeding close inshore at Cheswick on 16th (MHu). 30 were noted at St Mary's Island, 20 at Snab Point and three at Hauxley on 17th (TRD).

**Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

The peak counts were 38 at Blyth Harbour on 26th (STH), 16 at Berwick North Shore on 11th and in the Tweed Estuary on 12th ((MHu), 15 at Castle Island on 15th (DM/STH/IFo/PJA) and 13 at Widdrington Moor Lake on 28th (GB). Nine were at East Chevington North Pool on 15th, eight at Meadow Haven (Berwick) on 22nd and six at Rockcliffe (Whitley Bay) on 1st. One to three were noted at Cresswell Pond, Gosforth Park NR, St Mary's Wetland and seen flying W over Slaley Hall. A ringed juvenile *sinensis* race bird was seen at Cresswell Pond on 9th.

**Shag** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

In the Berwick area counts of seven came from North Shore on 11th, Tweed Estuary on 12th and Meadow Haven on 22nd. Five roosted at Needle's Eye on 31st, where three nests were found on 11th (MHu).

**Bittern** *Botaurus stellaris*

Two were at Gosforth Park NR on 28th (KWY), where one had been noted from 24th when booming was heard (NHSN/PRM *et al.*).

**\*Little Bittern** *Botaurus minutus*

One was found during a guided walk at Gosforth Park NR on 22nd and was seen and heard until 27th (JL *et al.*). Many observers were able to add this species to their county list thanks to the co-operation of the NHSN.

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*

The peak count was five at Druridge Pools on 2nd (ADMc). Four were in Budle Bay on 27th/29th (CGK/GPK) Up to three were noted on 12 further dates in the East Chevington/Druridge Pools/Cresswell Pond area. Away from these sites one was on Holy Island on 5th/13th.

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*

The peak counts were 15 in the Tweed Estuary on 12th (MHu), nine, including juveniles previously fledged from the heronry, were observed throughout the month at Gosforth Park NR (NHSN) and eight at Tynemouth on 9th (CB). Five were in the Blyth Estuary on 23rd (LJM) and four at Castle Island on 15th (DM/STH/IFo/PJA). One to three were noted at Arcot Pond, Berwick North Shore, Bygate (Coquet Valley), Cresswell Pond, Catcleugh Reservoir, Dunstanburgh Castle, East Chevington North Pool, Grindon Lough, Holywell Dene, Ladyburn Lake, Morpeth, Wark and Whittle Dene Reservoirs.

A grey Heron in the rain  
Howdon Wetland  
by Colin Bradshaw

**Spoonbill** *Platalea leucorodia*

Six (equalling county record counts in May 1976 at Holywell Pond and July 1976 at Ashington) were at Druridge Pools on 9th/23rd (TRD/JPD/TRC). Up to four were noted here on 17 further dates from 3rd-to 29th (many observers). Four were also noted at Cresswell Pond on 9th (JPD) with on to two from 5th-8th (PRM/IRD/TB/GB/IFo). Two were also at Hauxley NR on 14th/24th (AA/ASJ).



**Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Six were at Gosforth Park NR throughout the month (NHSN). Five, including two large juveniles not thought to have bred on site, were at Big Waters on 29th (GB). Counts of four adults came from Capheaton Lake on 17th (TRD) and Bothal Pond on 27th (TF/JFa). Three were at Grindon Lough on 26th (PRM). Two were noted at Coanwood Pond, Duke's Pond and Hadrian Pond (Rising Sun CP), Hauxley, Shield-on-the-Wall Dam and Swallow Pond. Singles were noted at Chevington Moor Farm Pond, Ladyburn Lake, Marden Quarry and Warkworth Lane Ponds. Breeding records are tabulated below:

Location	No. of broods	No. of young	Observer/Comments
Arcot Pond	2	5	STH. On 22nd
Linton Pond	2	4	STH. On 29th
Holy Island Lough	1	2	IK. On 21st
Middleton Hall	1	1	LJM. On 17th



A Great Crested Grebe gives the kids a ride  
Killingworth Lake  
Alan Jack

**Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus*

Eight (four pairs) were at Derwent Reservoir all month (IFo). Three pairs were at East Chevington North Pool (many observers) and two pairs at Killingworth Lake (ASJ/LJM). Three adults were noted at Bothal Pond, Branton Pond, where nest building was noted, and Cresswell Pond. Two were at Hedgeley GP, Widdrington Moor Lake and Whittle Dene Reservoirs. Breeding records are tabulated below:

Location	No. of broods	No. of young	Observer/Comments
East Chevington North Pool	2	5	ASJ. On 24th
Bothal Pond	1	3	TRD. On 17th
Killingworth Lake	1	3	LJM. On 8th

**Slavonian Grebe** *Podiceps auritus*

It should have been noted that two of the Slavonian Grebes observed at Holy Island on 6th April were displaying, a first for the observer of this activity in 40 years of visits (IK).

**Black-necked Grebe** *Podiceps nigricollis*

Five were present at a regular breeding location in South East Northumberland. Up to three were at a further potential breeding site in the south east. A pair was at a site in the south west where incubation was noted late in the month. A regular site in the centre of the county was not occupied this year.



A pair of Black-necked Grebes in the south east of the county  
by Jonathan Farooqi on 6th June

**Red Kite** *Milvus milvus*

Only single birds reported this month at Carterway Heads on 1st (IFo), Heddon-on-the-Wall on 6th (AA), High Brunton on 9th (JWP) and at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 27th (PRM).

**Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*

East Chevington had up to three birds throughout the month (IRD/TRD/JD), and females were at Linton Pond on 3rd (IRD) and Ashington on 9th (TB). Males were at Ashington on 12th (TB) Cresswell Pond on 26th (TRC) and Druridge Pools on 29th (IJ/TRC).

**Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*

Only single birds were noted this month at Belford on 3rd and 16th (MSH/TAC), Morpeth on 7th (DM), Southfield Green (Cramlington) on several dates, Bedlington on 22nd (JR), Gosforth Park NR on 28th (KWY) and at Walbottle on 29th (KR/LR).

**Common Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*

The Breamish Valley had seven+ birds on 16th (MSH/TAC) and five+ on 10th (MSH). Four were at Grindon Lough on 27th (PRM); three were seen at Big Waters, Slaley and Sweethope Lough. One or two birds were at ten other sites.

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetuss*

Two birds were at Derwent reservoir on 10th (IFo) and two flew W at Slaley Forest on 26th (DRW/IJ/TRC/MK). Single birds were noted at Catcleugh Reservoir (PRM), Colt Crag Reservoir (JL), Derwent Reservoir (IFo/JSB), Fenham Flats (GPK) and at Whittle Dene Reservoirs (SR).

**Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus*

The majority of sightings came from Gosforth Park NR with six birds including four juveniles of different ages (NHSN *et al.*). Two were heard calling at the Lough on Holy Island on 1st (MJC/ADM) and two were also at Big Waters on 22nd (GB). Singles were seen or heard at Cresswell Pond, Linton Pond and Woodhorn Flash (IRD/TB).

**Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*

The highest count this month was 16 birds at Howdon on 6th (CB), Ten birds were at Branton GPs on 17th (LJM) and at Grindon Lough on 26th (PRM). One to seven birds were at 15 sites.

**Coot** *Fulica atra*

Bothal Pond peaked with 62 birds on 29th (TD/IRD), 22 were at Linton Pond on 29th (STH), 15 were noted at Grindon Lough on 27th (PRM), 11 were at Arcot Pond on 15th (DM). One to nine birds were at 19 sites during the month.



**Avocet** *Recurvirostra avosetta*

Present throughout the month at Cresswell Pond, where a peak of ten occurred on 10th (LJM) and three pairs settled down to breed. Of the three nests, one looked to have been too close to the water's edge and may have been washed out on the 18th (MSH), whilst birds were noted sitting on the remaining two nests on several dates (many obs.). Single birds were noted at Castle Island on 15th (DM *et al.*) and Bothal Pond on 29th (TD).

**Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus*

Coastal peaks included 47 at Cullercoats on 30th (ASJ), 34 at Cresswell Pond on 8th (GB), 30+ non-breeders at Coquet Island on 3rd (MSH) and ten on the Tweed on 1st/12th (MHu). Inland sites held fewer numbers with 18 at Derwent Reservoir on 21st (IFo), eight pairs at Plenmeller Common on 28th (PRM) and at 11 (plus one young) at Branton GP on 15th (KDa per STH). Breeding activity included four juveniles from two nests at Prudhoe (IJ), three large young on Castle Island on 15th (STH *et al.*), a pair with one large young at Airy Holm Reservoir on 7th (IFo) plus one large and one downy juvenile at Heighley Gate garden centre (Morpeth) on 16th (LJM). One to four were also seen at a further eight locations.

**Golden Plover** *Pluvialis apricaria*

St Mary's held 34 birds on 27th (ASJ) and a single was further up the coast at Newbiggin on 29th (IJ/TRC). Three pairs were noted on Plenmeller Common on 26th and a single bird at Grindon Lough on 18th (PRM).

**Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*

Some 25 summer-plumaged birds were in Budle Bay on 7th (CGK).

**Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus*

Some post-breeding groups included ca.140 at Espershields (Slaley) on 20th (RMH), a peak of 123 at Grindon Lough on 26th (PRM) and 110 at Coanwood Pond also on 26th (PRM). 18-20 breeding birds were in fields bordering Big Waters on 1st (GB) and 15 was the peak at Bothal Pond on 29th (TF/JFa). Breeding reports included six pairs at Plenmeller Common on 26th (PRM), four pairs breeding at Woolsington Hall (IK), three broods at Druridge Pools on 3rd (TRC), two pairs (one sitting and one with three chicks) at Swallow Pond on 23rd (SPP), four very small young in a field between Dinnington-Prestwick village on 7th (GB), two juveniles at Lynemouth on 12th (GB), two young near Woolsington on 23rd (SRB), one young at Hedgeley GP on 15th (KDa per STH) and a single chick at Scaffold Hill Farm (Wallsend) on 2nd (CDH). Single-figure reports also came from five more sites.

**Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius*

Reports were received of one to six birds at four confidential sites during the month. A peak of seven was noted at Derwent Reservoir on 27th (PRM), whilst two were seen here from 16th (IFo). A pair was present in a drained Airy Holm Reservoir until the reservoir was re-filled on 11th forcing the birds to leave (IFo). Singles were also seen at Bothal Pond on 8th (GB/IFo), Grindon Lough on 23rd, Greenlee Lough on 26th (PRM) and Cresswell Pond on 29th (ADMc).

**Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*

Reduced numbers on the coast included 20+ in the Holy Island area on 4th/13th (MSH/TAC) and 11 at Cresswell Pond on 2nd (TRC), whilst inland Derwent Reservoir attracted seven on 27th (IFo). Breeding reports included three downy young on Chevington beach on 7th (AB/LB), a large juvenile at Hedgeley GP on 17th (LJM) and a juvenile at Grindon Lough on 26th (PRM). Two were also noted at Horton Grange opencast (Blagdon) on 27th (PCF).

**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*

Passage birds at Holy Island included one on 4th (MSH) and three on 13th (MSH/TAC), whilst elsewhere, two calling birds flew over East Sleekburn on 23rd (JR), one was at Cheswick on 9th (MHu) and one was heard over Hauxley on 17th (TRD).

**Curlew** *Numenius arquata*

Late month saw some increasing flock sizes with 65 at Druridge Pools on 25th (IRD), 65 at Budle Bay on 28th (CGK) and 63 at Brenkley (Blagdon) on 26th (GB). Plenmeller Common held eight pairs and a juvenile on 26th, 12 (including two pairs) were at Coanwood Pond on 26th and three pairs were at Sweetthope Lough on 13th (PRM). Apart from ten at Derwent Reservoir on 27th (PRM), one to six were noted at 11 further sites.

**Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa*

The flock seen at Cresswell Pond in late May remained throughout June and peaked at 58 on 4th (TB), 59 on 18th (ADMc) and 55 on 21st/23rd (IRD/MSH), with smaller numbers reported on several other dates (many obs.). Two reports from nearby Druridge Pools involved 45 on 23rd (SRB) and 35 on 29th (IJ/TRC). Elsewhere, ten flew over East Chevington on 7th (AA), two were at Grindon Lough on 26th (PRM) and one was at Seghill Flash on 8th (JBu).

**Bar-tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica*

There were few reports this month, which included a peak on Holy Island of 34 on 8th (ADM) and a single at Cresswell Pond on 3rd (TRC/MSH).

**Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*

There were just two records: 17 were at Cresswell Pond on 2nd (TB) and one at St Mary's on 30th (ASJ).

**Temminck's Stint** *Calidris temminckii*

An adult in breeding plumage was at Derwent Reservoir during 26th to 29th (IFo *et al.*). Although not reported on 30th, owing to excessive disturbance, it remained there into July.

**Sanderling** *Calidris alba*

Two reports early in the month: four at Long Nanny on 4th (MSH) and 15 in Budle Bay on 7th (GPK).

**Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*

Grindon Lough had three adults on 15th, five on 23rd and 11 on 26th (PRM *et al.*) and at Derwent Reservoir one adult was present on 12th and two from 26th to 30th (IFo *et al.*). It was scarce at the coast: two at Cresswell Pond on 2nd (TRC) and two at Holy Island on 13th (MSH/TAC).

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*

Eight pairs were noted in Upper Coquetdale on 19th (ASJ) and 12+, mainly in pairs, were along the R. Breamish on 16th (MSH/TAC). Up to eight were present throughout at Derwent Reservoir where a nest containing three tiny chicks and one egg was found on a public footpath on 20th (IFo). Two to four were found at Allen Banks, Catcleugh Reservoir, Colt Crag, Eals, Slaggyford and Whittle Dene Reservoirs with singletons at Budle Bay, Hauxley NR, Holy Island and Rothbury.



A Common Sandpiper calls at Ingram by Janet Dean on 3rd June

**Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*

Two were at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 20th and three on 24th (SR). One visited Druridge Pools on 26th (TRC).

**Spotted Redshank** *Tringa erythropus*

One in non-breeding plumage was in the Rocket Field pools, Holy Island on 1st (IK).

**Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*

Singles were recorded at Seghill Flash on 4th (JBU/JPD/MPF/AS) and at West Stobswood Pool on 6th (MSH).

**Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*

Hoppen Kiln Flash hosted two during 1st to 2nd (GPK *et al.*).

**Redshank** *Tringa totanus*

It was regularly noted at Grindon Lough with counts reaching 21 by 26th; six juveniles were seen there on 23rd (PRM/SJH). The monthly maximum at Derwent Reservoir was 14 on 22nd (IFo). The other reports involve two pairs at Plenmeller Common, two at Greenlee Lough and one at Shield on the Wall dam, all on 26th.

**Woodcock** *Scolopax rusticola*

Slaley Forest held a monopoly with two roding on 15th (RMH) and at least four doing so on 26th (DRW *et al.*).

**Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*

Late in the month nine were at Derwent Reservoir on 27th (IFo), nine at Druridge Pools on 29th (IJ/TRC) and four pairs at Plenmeller Common on 26th (PRM). Potential breeding was also noted at Brocolitia, Broomlee Lough, Greenlee Lough, Grindon Lough, Housesteads, Lambley, Prestwick Carr, Shield on the Wall, Sweethope Lough and in Upper Coquetdale.

**Arctic Skua** *Stercorarius parasiticus*

Singles were off Newbiggin on 15th (ASH), 16th (TRC) then four there on 18th (ADMc). St Mary's had one on 17th (TRD), two on 19th (SPP), three on 20th (JPD) and one on 29th (MSH). Two were off East Chevington on 22nd (ADMc/NFO).



**Long-tailed Skua** *Stercorarius longicaudus*

An adult was off Newbiggin on 15th (ASH).

**Great Skua** *Stercorarius skua*

Four singletons were seen around mid month: at Newbiggin (TRC) and Snab Point (JL) on 15th, Newbiggin on 16th (TRC) and at St Mary's on 17th (TRD). One flew N at Tynemouth on 29th (DRW).

**Auk sp**

Movement N was apparent at St Mary's Island on 28th-29th when ca.50-70 per hour flew past in late afternoon during short periods of sea-watching (MSH).

**Puffin** *Fratercula arctica*

On 14th and 29th, 27 and 22 respectively moved N during one to two hour sea watches at Tynemouth (DRW) and, also on 29th, 20 were recorded at Newbiggin (IJ/TRC). Six roosted with shags at Berwick, Needle's Eye on 21st (MHu) and one to five were at four other locations.

Two photographs from the Farne Islands.

Top: the ever-popular Puffin by Adriana Buskin and below: a pair of Razorbills by Alan Jack

**Razorbill** *Alca torda*

At Berwick, Needles Eye, 26 nests were counted on 11th when 30 birds were on the sea (MHu). At Dunstanburgh Castle, 120 were on the sea on 5th (JMA) and four to six were at Berwick (Meadow Haven), Newbiggin and St Mary's Island on 28th/29th.

**Guillemot** *Uria aalge*

The breeding colony at Needles Eye (Berwick) contained 166 nests on 11th whilst 70+ birds rested off-shore (MHu). Counts of 200 came from Newbiggin on 29th (IJ/TRC) and 70 at Rockcliffe (Whitley Bay) on 28th (IJ) with smaller numbers of three to 16 at five other sites on various dates throughout the month.



A Guillemot at the Farne islands  
by Adriana Buskin on 15th June

**Bridled Tern** *Onychoprion anaethetus*

For the second consecutive summer, a superb adult appeared on Inner Farne on 20th and was recorded there daily up to the 29th spending periods on the rocks by the jetty with absences away to feed at sea.. The bird was seen by many observers (*per* Birdguides) during its stay on Inner Farne although, surprisingly, no members submitted records for this star attraction.

Because its daily routine on Inner Farne so closely mirrored that of the July 2013 bird, it must be assumed that it was the same bird returning for its second successive summer here. This is the sixth county record of this extremely rare visitor from tropical and sub-tropical seas.

**Little Tern** *Sternula albifrons*

At the Long Nanny colony on 17th the wardens reported 29 pairs nesting (*per* SRB). From the Lindisfarne breeding site on 20th it was reported that several pairs had lost early nests due to high tides but the good news was that ten to 12 pairs had laid and hatched young at a second site (IK).

**Sandwich Tern** *Sterna sandvicensis*

A WeBS survey on 12th in the River Tweed Estuary recorded 110 birds and, elsewhere, peak double-figure counts during the month were 34 at Berwick (Middle Haven) (MHu), 48 at Cresswell Pond (TRC), 40 at East Chevington NWT (MSH) and 12 at Hauxley NWT (TRC). One to five were also recorded at Berwick (North Shore), Newbiggin and Whitley Bay.

**Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*

The Gosforth Park NR and adjacent pool held 17 pairs on eggs early in the month with the first young hatched on 12th (NHSN) and at Big Waters up to nine adults and six well-grown young were on the island on 29th (GB). The raft at Swallow Pond held five nesting pairs by 27th and a young bird was noted there on 17th from an earlier nest (SPP). At the coast, 20+ frequented East Chevington on 3rd with a similar number at Hauxley NWT on the same day (MSH) and on 17th (TRD); 12 were at North Shields on 23rd (CGK). Elsewhere, five were at Whittle Dene Reservoirs (PRM), three at Arcot Pond (STH/DM) with one to two at Ellington, Linton Pond and Swallow Pond.

**Roseate Tern** *Sterna dougallii*

One record only, of a single at Hauxley NWT on 14th (AA).

**Arctic Tern** *Sterna paradisaea*

On 21st, 31 first-summer birds rested on the beach with breeding adults at the Long Nanny colony (MSH) and the only other records were six at Hauxley NWT on 12th (TRC), two there on 17th (TRD) and a single at East Chevington on 2nd (TRD/JD).





Two common coastal breeding species. Top: an Arctic Tern at Long Nanny by Dennis Lovatt and below: a Kittiwake on the a ledge at the Farne Islands by Adriana Buskin



**Kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla*

A strong early evening movement N on 15th included 100 passing in seven minutes (TRC) and Newbiggin Point saw 72 and 124 passing per hour on 15th and 16th respectively (ASH). On 19th, the Tyne Bridge held 358 nests with 131 nests on the nearby Quayside buildings (DM) and the colony at Needles Eye (Berwick) held 1130 nests with 160 birds on the sea on 11th (MHu); 75 nesting pairs were present at Tynemouth on 25th (KWY). A WeBS survey on the River Tweed Estuary recorded 256 on 12th (MHu), 100+ were at Rockliffe (Whitley Bay) on 15th (IJ) and a low-tide roost at Berwick, Meadow Haven held 46 on 29th (MHu). Three to six were noted at three other sites.

**Black-headed Gull** *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

The large colony on Plenmeller Common held many pairs but no count was made this month. However, many juveniles were present on 26th (PRM). Breeding pairs at the Gosforth Park NR and adjacent pool hatched ca.31 chicks but many fell prey to otters as they left the platform (NHSN/IK). At the newly re-established colony on Holy Island Lough, fledged young were on the water by 19th (IK) and successful nesting also was observed on 17th at Swallow Pond with 25 pairs producing 15 young on the island and raft (SPP).

The River Wansbeck at Morpeth saw a maximum of 72 on 22nd (DM), Newbiggin south beach held 50 on 29th (STH) and one to six were at eight other localities; a leucistic bird was seen at Coquet Island (MSH).

**Little Gull** *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

Cresswell Pond continued to be the favoured location where the species was recorded almost daily throughout the month. The numbers reported ranged from up to 12 during the first half of the month, rising to a maximum of 20-26 on 22nd-27th (IRD/MSH/ADMc *et al.*), all immatures, mainly first-summer birds; two adults were noted on the 14th (LJM). Sightings elsewhere were few, with single first-summers recorded only at East Chevington, Holy Island and Church Point (Newbiggin).

**Mediterranean Gull** *Larus melanocephalus*

On 27th two adults came in off the sea onto East Chevington North Pool (TB) and at Newbiggin an adult and a first-summer bird were present on 29th (STH). Elsewhere, during the second half of the month, a single first-summer was at Cresswell Pond (TF/JFa) with adults at Cresswell Pond, Hauxley NWT and St Mary's Island (TB/MSH).

**Common Gull** *Larus canus*

Very few records this month, mainly of first-summer birds. Four were at Bamburgh Stag Rocks on 13th (MSH/TAC), four at St Mary's Island on 21st (IJ) and singles elsewhere at Berwick (North Shore), Cresswell Pond, Grindon Lough and the River Tweed Estuary.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus graelsii*

The maximum counts came from a high-tide roost at Budle Point on 29th which contained 70 (CGK), 20 were at West Hartford on 28th (STH), 15 in Jesmond Dene throughout the month (MJCo) and 11 in the River Tweed Estuary on 12th (MHu). One to six were noted at Arcot Pond, Berwick North Shore, Blyth Riverside Industrial Estate (two occupied nests), Exhibition Park, Leazes Park, Morpeth Weir, Prestwick Carr (PCF/MHu/DM/LJM) and including three feeding in an observer's garden at Walbottle (KR/LR).

**Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus argenteus*

On the River Blyth Industrial Estate 20 occupied nests contained 25 young on 23rd and at nearby Blyth South Harbour on 14th, one nest held two downy young on 14th (LJM) with another nest containing two young next to the Blyth Harbour Master's Office on 26th (STH). At Berwick Needles Eye, 26 occupied nests were recorded on 11th (MHu).

By far the largest concentrations came from the north with 650+ in the Budle Point gull roost on 29th (CGK), 210 at Berwick North Shore from a WeBS survey on 11th and 145 in the River Tweed Estuary on 12th (MHu). Elsewhere, apart from 13 in Leazes Park on 2nd (DM) and nine in Jesmond Dene throughout the month (MJCo), one to two were at seen at Morpeth Weir, St Mary's Wetland, Walbottle and Whitley Bay.

**Great Black-backed Gull** *Larus marinus*

The Budle Point gull roost held 115 on 29th (CGK) and ten were in the River Tweed Estuary on 12th (MHu). Other sites, namely Berwick North Shore, East Chevington, Grindon Lough and Newbiggin held up to four birds..

**Rock Dove** *Columba livia*

A high count of 92 at Blyth South Harbour on 14th (LJM), a flock of 25 were sunning themselves on the roof of Oliver's Mill (Morpeth) on 22nd (DM) and four were at Rockcliffe (Whitley Bay) on 27th (IJ).

**Stock Dove** *Columba oenas*

A maximum monthly count of 14 at Howdon on 19th (CB), six in Jesmond Dene during the month (MJCo), three at West Hartford on 20th (STH) with one to two regularly in gardens at Old Hartley, Rothbury, Walbottle and at eight other localities.

**Woodpigeon** *Columba palumbus*

Sixty were at Beaconhill (Cramlington) on 17th (STH), 20 at Howdon on 19th (CB), eight at Jesmond Dene during the month, four at St Mary's Wetland on 21st and three in the observer's garden at Walbottle on 8th.

**Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*

At Prestwick five were counted on 2nd (PCF), two to four in an Old Hartley garden during the month (RJP) and two in a Walbottle garden on 8th (KR/LR).

**Cuckoo** *Cuculus canorus*

Well reported with five the peak count at Simonside on 19th (AJR). Three were at Slaley Forest on 3rd (JSB), two at Tosson Hill, Longhorsley Moor and Great Wanney Fell on 8th, Eals on 16th and Devil's Water (Corbridge) on 20th with singles at 17 other inland and two coastal locations.



**Barn Owl** *Tyto alba*

A confidential nest box site in the south east had an adult carrying food to two juveniles on 26th with audible young following a visit by an adult to a tree nest site at Ponteland on 15th (PCF). Singles were seen regularly at Druridge Pools and Cresswell Pond with one also carrying food at Hartley West Farm (Holywell Dene) on 1st. Major roads claimed casualties at (A69) Bardon Mill on 13th and (A1) Fair Moor (Morpeth) on 22nd.

**Little Owl** *Athene noctua*

The established pair at Shiremoor were seen regularly during the month (CGK) with a single regularly near Warren Mill Caravan Park (Bamburgh) (CGK/GPK). Other singles were at East Holywell on 6th (MSH), Beaconhill (Cramlington) on 7th (STH) and Bell's Farm Pond (Cresswell) on 8th (GB).

**Tawny Owl** *Strix aluco*

A pair fledged four young at Gosforth Park NR (NHSN) with a pair and at least two young at Stamfordham during the month (EC). Two or more were near the observer's garden at Fulbeck (Morpeth) on 24th (TD) and on the road before dawn at Brunton (near Chollerford) on 28th (PRM). Singles were at Ingram on 3rd, Beacon Hill (Longhorsley) on 6th, over Heaton Road (Newcastle) on 9th, Ponteland on 15th, Gosforth Park on 23rd and Spindlestone on 27th with road casualties at Hepscott Park on 5th and Gubeon (near Morpeth) on 20th.

April amendment

Breeding was confirmed at Slaley with a nest containing 5 eggs on 23rd having hatched when revisited on 24th should read "Two nests were found at Slaley - one in a tree hole had 5 eggs on the 23rd and one in a nest box had 2 young and 3 eggs on the 24th".



A Tawny Owl in a Stamfordham garden by Eddie Crabtree

**Long-eared owl** *Asio otus*

An adult was at Swallow Pond on 8th/9th and joined by three juveniles on 10th (JPD) whilst an adult hunted nearby as two to three juveniles called from a conifer plantation in the south east of the county on 26th (GB). Singles were at Holy Island on 10th (SR) and Catcleugh Reservoir on 13th with a juvenile perched in a tree calling at Chipchase on 23rd (PRM).

**Nightjar** *Caprimulgus europaeus*

Three including two males were at Slaley Forest on 26th (IJ/TRC/DRW/MK) where one male churred on 6th (ASH) with another at Sweethope Lough on 20th (PRM).

**Swift** *Apus apus*

A flock of 76 drifted NW in heavy rain at East Ord (Berwick) on 10th (MHu), 65 at a nesting colony at Lynemouth on 14th (ASJ), 50+ at Castle Island on 15th (DM/STH/IF/PJA) and over Chapel House on 4th (IK) with around 30 the peak count at Arcot, Bothal and Linton ponds. Twelve to 22 were at Alnwick, Belford, Holywell Dene, Kingston Park, Longhorsley, Slaley and Wark with one to nine eight other locations.

**Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*

Two were at Thrum Mill (Rothbury) on 17th, 21st and 22nd (JD), at Mitford on 25th (ADMc) and Gosforth Park NR and adjacent pool during the month (NHSN) with singles there regularly during the month. Singles were also at Ovingham on 17th, Seaton Sluice on 22nd, Woolsington on 23rd, Whiteadder Water (Berwick) on 30th, Wark on the same date and at Jesmond Dene during the month.

A Kingfisher with a catch  
Gosforth NR  
by Chris Knox



**Green Woodpecker** *Picus viridis*

A pair were at Gosforth Park NR (NHSN) with a single calling there on 19th, seen regularly at Rothbury (JD) and at Sidwood (Tasset Burn) on 6th.

**Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major*

A peak count of five at Gosforth Park NR (NHSN) with family parties of four at Rothbury, Holywell Dene, near an Old Hartley garden (TRD/JD/RJP) and at Tynemouth on 19th (CB). Young were successfully fledged at Jesmond Dene and Armstrong Park with single juveniles being fed by an adult at Harthope Valley on 17th (LJM) and Fulbeck (Morpeth) on 25th (TD). Two were at Jesmond Dene, Hulne Park (Alnwick) on 13th and Arcot Pond on 27th with singles at six locations around Cramlington, Carlisle Park and St George's Park (Morpeth) and at Prudhoe.

**Red backed Shrike** *Lanius collurio*

An adult female was at St Mary's Island on 11th (JBu).

Correction to the May records . Three males were present at Holy Island on 29th-30th (ADM).

**Ring-necked Parakeet** *Psittacula krameri*

Three birds were at Walker Park / Cemetery (Newcastle) on 10th with two pairs there on 13th (SPP).

**Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*

A pair fledged three young from a crag nest at Holy Island Castle (IK). Grindon Lough had a male and a female there on 18th and two females on 27th (PRM). All other sightings involved single birds at Backworth, Black Heddon, Catcleugh Reservoir, Causey Park, Cramlington, Cullercoats, Deanmoor, Druridge Pools, Dunstanburgh, Gosforth Park NR, Grindon Lough, Holy Island, Howick, Longhorsley Moor, Lyneburn Flash, North Shields, St Mary's, Simonside, Stagshaw and Tynemouth.

**Hobby** *Falco subbuteo*

Single birds were noted at Druridge Pools on 3rd (TRC) and at Gosforth Park NR on 24th (ASJ/NHSN).

**Peregrine** *Falco peregrinus*

A pair fledged at least one young in our first recorded successful urban nest site at Newcastle Quayside (IK). Single birds were seen at Howdon on 7th (CB), Catcleugh Reservoir on 13th (PRM) and at Middle Ord (Berwick) on 15th (MHu).

**Magpie** *Pica pica*

Around 30 were at Byker on 24th (ADM), 14 the peak count at Howdon (CB), ten at Prestwick Carr on 21st (PCF), eight at Jesmond Dene, seven at Tyne Riverside (Newburn) on 20th and six at St Mary's wetland on 21st. One to five were in gardens at Longhorsley, Old Hartley, Rothbury and Walbottle.

**Jay** *Garrulus glandarius*

On two dates during the month three were at Gosforth Park NR (NHSN/TB), two at Stannington on 13th (TB) with singles at Arcot Pond, East Chevington, Holywell Dene, Jesmond Dene, Morpeth, Prudhoe and Swallow Pond.

**Jackdaw** *Corvus monedula*

The maximum monthly count at Howdon was 44 (CB), 14 at the observer's garden in Walbottle on 29th (KR/LR), four at Jesmond Dene (MJCo) and three in an Old Hartley garden (RJP).

**Rook** *Corvus frugilegus*

Just one report of 110 feeding in harvested silage fields at Druridge Pools on 23rd (IFo).

**Carrion Crow** *Corvus corone*

Freshly cut grass fields attracted 39 at Beaconhill (Cramlington) on 22nd (STH), 28 the peak count at Howdon (CB), 14 at Jesmond Dene (MJCo) with two at St Mary's Island and Walbottle. Adult pairs fed two to three juveniles at Arcot Hall, Arcot Pond and Southfield Green (Cramlington) (DM).

**Raven** *Corvus corax*

In Upper Coquetdale 12 were at Usway Burn on 25th (TD) and seven at Shillmoor on 6th (JR) with two at both of the above either side of that date and also at Ridlees Cairn and Barrowburn. Singles were at Catcleugh Reservoir and Plennmeller Common.

**Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus*

A peak of five in Jesmond Dene during the month (MJCo), two singing regularly at Prudhoe (IJ) and singles, also all noted as singing at Valley Park (Cramlington), Darras Hall, Grindon Lough on three dates, Carlisle Park & St George's Park (Morpeth) and Newsham.

**Blue Tit** *Cyanistes caeruleus*

All reports of family parties from Longhorsley Moor, seven birds on 26th (AB/LB), two to five in an Old Hartley garden where fledging was noted as poor at 40% failure (RJP), five in a Walbottle garden on 15th (KR/LR) and at Parish Haugh (Morpeth) (DM).



**Great Tit** *Parus major*

Three family parties with 18 individuals were at Prestwick Carr on 11th (PCF), three to 11 in an Old Hartley garden (RJP), five in a Walbottle garden on 22nd (KR/LR), two at Jesmond Dene and an adult visiting nest at Longhorsley Moor on 6th (AS/LB).

**Coal Tit** *Periparus ater*

A maximum of only two in gardens at Old Hartley and Walbottle (RJP/KR/LR) with singles at Grindon Lough on 18th (PRM), Newbiggin on 20th (STH) with breeding confirmed at Chapel House by a pair present since April now with newly fledged young (IK).

**Willow Tit** *Poecile montanus*

Scarce this month with singles at Linden Hall (Longhorsley) on 3rd & 9th (NFO) and at Derwent Reservoir on 27th (PRM).

**Marsh Tit** *Poecile palustris*

Also scarce with family groups at Whiteadder Mill (Berwick) on 8th (BWG/TBr) and singles at Rothbury on 22nd and 30th (TRD/JD).

**Bearded Tit** *Panurus biarmicus*

Two males at two confidential sites in South East Northumberland with reports from one site daily between 4th-8th (ADMc/TB/PRM/ PRF/JPD/GB) and at a site further north on 15th (DM/STH/PJA/IF).

**Skylark** *Alauda arvensis*

Birds still singing with 22 at Buteland Fell (Redesmouth) on 8th, 20 at Green Rigg on the same date (ASJ), a monthly peak of ten at St Mary's wetland on 1st declining to three by 21st (IJ) and six at Barrowburn (Upper Coquetdale) on 26th (AB/LB).



A Skylark in the Simonsides  
by Alan Jack

**Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia*

The first autumn passage birds reported at Gosforth Park NR and adjacent pool on 20th (NHSN), 30+ at Lynemouth Flash on 12th and Ingram on 28th (MSH/TAC/ASJ), ten the maximum count for the month at Howdon (CB), six at St Mary's Island on 21st (IJ) and two over Tynemouth boating lake on 2nd (CB).

**Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*

Birds presumably too ubiquitous to count as the maximum reported was three at Exhibition Park (Newcastle) on 12th (DM) and two at Jesmond Dene (MJCo). Two pairs nested in the hide at the Lough (Holy Island) with fledged young noted on 19th in what was seen to be a good breeding year (ADM/IK). Pairs also nested in hides at Druridge Pools and were present at St Mary's wetland on 21st (IJ/TRC).

A Swallow sits out a storm  
Howdon Wetland  
by Colin Bradshaw

**House Martin** *Delichon urbica*

Over 20 collected mud from beneath Telford Bridge (Morpeth) on 7th (DM), 15 at Exhibition Park (Newcastle) on 2nd (GB), 14 the peak count at Holywell Dene, eight at Howdon on 8th (RJP/CB) and four at Leazes Park (Newcastle) on 23rd (DM). Four nests were noted at Needles Eye (Berwick) on 11th (MHu) and three at Walbottle on 29th (KR/LR).

**Long-tailed Tit** *Aegithalos caudatus*

13 were at Parish Haugh (Morpeth) on 14th (DM) and nine at Longhorsley Moor on 26th and at Valley Park (Cramlington) on 12th. One to four were reported from a further three localities.

**Wood Warbler** *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Two singing males were at Sidwood (Tarsset Burn) on 8th (ASJ) and one at Byrness on 28th (JD).

**Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita*

Late migrants were on Holy Island on 1st and 9th. Seven were heard between Morpeth-Bothal on 19th (IRD) and up to six in Jesmond Dene (MJCo/DHWP). Elsewhere four to five+ were heard at Castle Park (Morpeth), Druridge Bay and Hulne Park (Alnwick) and one to three at a further 12 localities.

**Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Higher counts were 14 at Prestwick Carr on 21st (PCF), 11 at Longhorsley Moor on 8th (AB/LB), six at Derwent Reservoir and five at Howdon. One to three at a further 11 localities included two late migrants on Holy Island on 1st, one of which showed characteristics of the Northern race *P.c.acredula* (MJC/ADM).

**Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*

Five+ at Branton GP on 16th and up to five in Jesmond Dene were the highest counts (MSH/TAC/MJCo). There were four singing at Valley Park (Cramlington) on 26th and three at Derwent Reservoir, Howdon and Hulne Park (Alnwick). One to two were noted at a further 12 localities, including a late migrant at Holy Island on 1st.

**Garden Warbler** *Sylvia borin*

One to two were reported from Arcot Hall GC, Arcot Lane, Aydon (Corbridge), Derwent Reservoir, Grindon Lough, Linton Ponds, Longhorsley Moor, Rothbury, Stonehaugh and Swallow Pond.

**Lesser Whitethroat** *Sylvia curruca blythi*

Two singing males were at Spindleston on 28th (CGK) and at Linton Ponds on 29th (STH). Singles were also reported from Bank's Pond (Dinnington), East Chevington and Howdon.





**Whitethroat** *Sylvia communis*

Well reported again this month with 15 noted at Holywell on 22nd (ASJ) and 11 at Prestwick Carr on 28th (PCF). Elsewhere up to eight were reported from St Mary's during the month and a family party of five was at Aydon (Corbridge) on 6th-8th. Three were singing at Howdon on 11th and one to two were reported from a further nine localities, including Holy Island where a migrant was at the Snook on 1st (MJC/ADM) and a singing male in the Vicar's garden on 9th (IK).

**Grasshopper Warbler** *Locustella naevia*

Two were at Cresswell Pond on 6th (TB). Elsewhere singles (mainly reported as 'reeling') were noted at Arcot Lane, Arcot Pond, Bellasis Bridge, Dinnington, Greenlee Lough, Kielder Water, Prestwick Carr, Rockcliffe (Whitley Bay), St Mary's Wetland and Sweethope Lough.

**Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Up to 11 were noted in the St Mary's area with a peak of seven adults and four fledged juveniles on 17th (ASJ). Breeding was also confirmed at Cocklawburn where a pair accompanied three fledged young on 9th, at Newsham GC (Blyth) where a pair were feeding young on 30th and at Valley Park (Cramlington) where there were two breeding pairs. Up to nine (including six singing males) were at Cresswell Pond during the month, nine at Prestwick Carr on 7th and seven (including six singing males) at Greenlee Lough on 26th. Six to six+ were on Holy Island on 1st and 5th, these totals including two to three at the Snook and three juveniles on the Crooked Lonnen. Two were singing at Grindon Lough from 1st-16th, and one thereafter to the end of the month; these were the first records here for one regular visitor in almost 50 years of observation (SJH/PRM). Two were also noted at Aydon (Corbridge) on 8th and Prudhoe on 7th. Singles were also reported from Dunstanburgh GC, Hadston and Shield-on-the-Wall.

**Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

The favoured reed bed sites at Gosforth Park NR, Cresswell Pond and East Chevington held up to ten (KWY), four+ (MSH) and four (DM) respectively during the month. Two to three were singing at Killingworth Lake, two at Holywell Pond and singles at Burradon Pond, Druridge Bay CP, Druridge Pools, Hauxley NR, Linton Ponds, Rockcliffe (Whitley Bay), St Mary's Wetland and Warkworth Lane. A probable migrant was at Holy Island on 3rd.

**Nuthatch** *Sitta europaea*

Breeding was confirmed in Jesmond Dene (DHWB). More unusual sightings were of singles in an Old Hartley garden (Holywell Dene) on 15th and at Big Waters on 22nd, both sites at which the species is scarce. One to two were also reported from Eshott, Hulne Park (Alnwick), Ingram, Morpeth, Ponteland, Rothbury and Walbottle.

**Treecreeper** *Certhia familiaris*

One to two were reported from Big Waters, Eshott, Hulne Park (Alnwick) and Ingram.

**Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes*

15 were at Prestwick Carr on 7th (PCF). Six young were raised from an old House Martin's nest at Kielder (ASJ) and a family party was noted at Parish Haugh (Morpeth) on 14th (DM). Four to five were reported from Holywell Dene and Jesmond Dene and singles a further two localities.

**Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*

Flocks of 100-130 were reported from Slaley (Combhills) on 27th, St Mary's Wetland on 21st and Widdrington on 28th, the latter including about 100 juveniles. About 80 were at Slaley (Espershields) on 20th and 63 juveniles were at Airy Holm Reservoir (Shotleyfield) on 21st. Elsewhere were 20 at Whitley Bay links and 14-16 at Longhorsley Moor and Walbottle.

**Dipper** *Cinclus cinclus*

Two broods were reared in Jesmond Dene and successful breeding was confirmed at Carey Burn (Harthope Valley) and probably at Allen Banks where four were seen on 24th.

**Blackbird** *Turdus merula*

Four to six were reported from Holywell Dene, Jesmond Dene, Longhorsley Moor (six singing males) and a Walbottle garden.

**Song Thrush** *Turdus philomelos*

Eight were at Ingram on 28th (ASJ) and a pair escorted four large young at Sidwood (Tasset) on 8th (JR). Five were in Jesmond Dene during the month (MJCo) and four were singing at Parish Haugh (Morpeth) on 14th. One to two were noted at a further five localities.

**Mistle Thrush** *Turdus viscivorus*

A gathering of 14 was at East Cramlington LNR on 29th (STH). Seven were noted at Slaley on 20th and a family party of six was at Quickenincote on 15th. Elsewhere were four+ at Stonehaugh on 10th, three at Grindon Lough on 26th and at Howdon on 16th and two at Jesmond Dene.

**Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata*

A light influx produced six on Holy Island on 1st (IK), with another here on 10th. There were probably two pairs in and around a Stamfordham garden during the month and three newly fledged young were noted here from 28th (EC). Two pairs were also at Linden Hall and Sidwood (Tasset) and three to four were noted at Breamish Valley, Glanton Pike and Simonside. Up to two were seen at Blanchland and singles at two Kielder sites and one at Gosforth Park NR.



A Spotted Flycatcher at Ingram  
3rd June by Janet Dean

**Robin** *Erithacus rubecula*

Six singing males were at Longhorsley Moor on 8th (AB/LB), and three birds were reported from Jesmond Dene. In a Walbottle garden, where the species is usually a daily visitor, a single was seen on only one date.



A juvenile Robin at Howdon Wetland by Colin Bradshaw

**Redstart** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Breeding was confirmed at Allen Banks (male carrying food), Birtley (pair with three fledged young mobbing a Stoat), Longhorsley (pair with four fledged young at Beacon Hill), Prestwick Carr (male feeding young in a nest) and Thrunton Woods (two adults and four young). In addition a male was seen near a nest box at Whittle Dene Reservoirs. Singles were noted at Breamish Valley, Derwent Reservoir and Linden Hall.



**Whinchat** *Saxicola rubetra*

14 were noted in the Breamish Valley at Ingram on 28th (ASJ) and seven, including a pair feeding two fledged young, were seen at Hawsen Burn (Harthope Valley on 17th (LJM). In Upper Coquetdale various observers reported six (five males) at Barrowburn on 26th, five at Shillmoor on 25th and three at Usway Burn on 22nd. A pair was in breeding habitat at Tosson Hill on 8th and a male was singing at Catcleugh Reservoir on 13th.



A juvenile Stonechat at Hauxley by Alan Jack

**Stonechat** *Saxicola rubicola*

Breeding reports in addition to last month were received from Cocklawburn (a pair and three juveniles), St Mary's (male + four juveniles), Cresswell Pond (four juveniles), Hauxley (a pair and two juveniles) and Cullernose Point (two juveniles). Pairs with young as reported in May were again seen at Cheswick, Druridge Pools, East Chevington and Embleton GC. In addition two males were at Warkworth Gut on 8th and a male was inland at Cartington on 8th.

**Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe*

A total of 25 were counted between Shillmoor-Fairhaugh (Upper Coquetdale) on 22nd (IRD) and two adults and three juveniles were at Clennell on 25th (TD). All other reports were of singles, at Greenlee Lough, Grindon Lough, Hareshaw Common (Bellingham), Harthope Valley, Longframlington Common (juvenile) and Stag Rocks (Bamburgh).

**Dunnoek** *Prunella modularis*

A family party was noted at Parish Haugh, Morpeth on 14th (DMc). Reports of one to two came from a Walbottle garden, Holywell Dene and St. Mary's Wetland.

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*

The regular flock at Battlesteads Hotel numbered 30 on 8th (CB). 27 were at Prestwick Carr on 21st (PCF). 16 in a Walbottle garden on 1st included five juveniles. One to ten were noted at Tynemouth and St. Mary's Wetland.

**Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus*

20 in a garden in Walbottle included two family parties on 8th (KR/LR). 15 were at Cresswell Pond on 5th (PRM) and Waren Mill Caravan Park throughout the month (CGK/GPK). Elsewhere one to six were noted at Morpeth, Battlesteads Hotel (Wark), West Ord, Capheaton, Prestwick Carr, Hauxley, Linden Hall and Aydon near Corbridge.

**Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava flavissima*

11 at the favoured locality of Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 20th was by far the largest group in the month (SR). Earlier in the month four adults were at Mootlaw Quarry (Ryal) on 5th (ALT); two were later seen carrying food on 14th. All other reports were of one to two and came from Hoppen Kiln Flash, Battlesteads Hotel (Wark), Cresswell Pond, Hemscott Hill and the shore at Beal.

**Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*

Nine on the Usway Burn between Shillmoor and Fairhaugh on 22nd (IRD) and eight were counted along an unspecified section of the River Wansbeck on 19th (IRD). Three family parties were noted at Allen Banks on 24th (TD). Four in the Harthope Valley on 17th included two juveniles. One to two were noted at eleven other sites including breeding activity in Morpeth, Leazes Park and the Breamish Valley.

**Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla alba yarrelli*

18 at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 24th was the peak count in the month (PRM). 12 pairs were thought to be breeding around Holy Island village and farm with the first fledged young noted on 7th (IK). The only other report was of four at St. Mary's Wetland on 21st.

**Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis*

Three were at Beacon Hill on 6th (JSB). A male sang at Simonside on 8th and singles noted at Slaley Forest on 26th and Byrness on 28th.

**Meadow Pipit** *Anthus pratensis*

26 on Buteland Fell (Redesmouth) on 8th was the highest count in the month (ASJ). Nine were at Prestwick Carr and eight at Longhorsley Moor. Four were noted at St. Mary's Wetland on various dates.

**Rock Pipit** *Anthus petrosus*

Six at Holy Island on 8th was the peak count in the month (ADM). Three were at Rockcliffe (Whitley Bay) on the same date, with one-two noted intermittently until 28th at least.

**Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs*

Seven at Rockcliffe (Whitley Bay) was the peak count in the month (IJ). Five were noted in Holywell Dene and in a garden in Walbottle, the latter group included a leucistic female feeding a juvenile (KR/LR).



Top: a cock Chaffinch and below: a young Bullfinch, both at Howdon Wetland by Colin Bradshaw

**Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Up to eight, made up of two family parties, were around Holywell Dene and a garden at Old Hartley during the month (KR/LR/AJP). Family parties of five were noted at Waren Mill Caravan Park and a Walbottle garden on 29th. Four were noted at Lickar Dene on 30th and three at Valley Park, Cramlington on 12th and Howdon on 14th.

**Greenfinch** *Carduelis chloris*

Six including a juvenile were in a Walbottle garden on 1st (KR/LR). Three noted at Jesmond Dene and St. Mary's Wetland during the month.

**Linnet** *Linaria cannabina*

120 at Chugden Wood on 14th (TB) was the only significant flock recorded in the month. Ten were at St. Mary's Wetland on 1st and 21st (IJ) and Southfield Green (Cramlington) on 15th (DMc)..

**Lesser Redpoll** *Acanthis cabaret*

Seven in the Harthope Valley on 17th included two juveniles (LJM). Five were noted at Greenlee Lough (26th) and Derwent Reservoir (27th). Two pairs were at Battlesteads Hotel (Wark) on 9th and one-three were reported from Bellshill Farm near Belford, Grindon Lough, Shield on the Wall dam and Coanwood Pond.





**Common Crossbill** *Loxia curvirostris*

Six, comprised of two adults and four juveniles, were at Blakehopeburnhaugh on 6th (JD). At least three were at Tosson Hill on 8th (MJC). One to two were noted at Bellshill Farm near Belford, Catcleugh reservoir, Harwood Forest and Sweethope Lough.

**Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*

11 at Prestwick Carr on 13th was the rather low monthly peak (PCF). Ten in a garden at Walbottle on 8th included two juveniles (LR/KR). Three to four were noted in a garden at Fulbeck and Holywell Dene.



A Goldfinch shows off its colours at Howdon Wetland. Colin Bradshaw

**Siskin** *Spinus spinus*

Five at Grindon Lough on the 23rd was the largest count mustered in the month (SJH). Four were noted at Catcleugh Reservoir on 13th and Wark on 30th. One to two were recorded at Grindon Lough, Linden Hall, Shilden Cottage near Blanchland and Sweethope Lough.

**Yellowhammer** *Emberiza citrinella*

Nine singing males were in the Holywell area on mid-month (15th) (ASJ). Six were above the Battlesteads Hotel (Wark) on 9th and three pairs on Longhorsley Moor on 26th. Five singing males were in the Harthope Valley on 17th.

**Reed Bunting** *Emberiza Schoeniclus*

Ca.20 at Cresswell Pond on 5th was the maximum count in the month (PRM). 15 at St. Mary's on 15th included three fledged young (ASJ). Four males held territory at Gosforth Park NR throughout and four were noted at Greenlee Lough on 26th.

**ESCAPES, HYBRIDS AND BIRDS OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN****Escapes****Bar-headed Goose** *Anser indicus*

A group of seven were seen with sightings at Hauxley on 13th (JSB) and Hauxley on 18th (MSH). This follows a similar group of five in 2012.

**Red-breasted Goose** *Branta ruficollis*

A first-summer proved very popular with sightings at Warkworth moving S on 8th (NFO) then Snab Point the same day (JL). It then located to Hauxley from 9th to 13th (JPD/MPF/AS/JSB/TRD/JD). Presumably the offspring of a feral pair in the UK.

**Gyr Falcon** *Falco rusticolus*

An adult white morph bird with jesses must have been a spectacular sight at Swallow Pond on 23rd (SPP). It was seen in flight and alighted on a fence post.



A cock Reed Bunting at Cresswell  
by Jonathan Farooqi on 7th June

#### LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

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Berwick Wildlife Group, Natural History Society of Northumbria.

#### Apologies for any accidental omissions

#### BULLETIN COMPILATION AND PRODUCTION

This bulletin was compiled by Chris Barlow (Mute Swan to Ruddy Duck), Lindsay McDougall (Red Grouse to Black-necked Grebe), Trevor Blake (Honey-buzzard to Crane), Steve Holliday (Avocet to Godwit) Ian Forsyth (Turnstone to Skua), Eddie Crabtree (Puffin to Great Black-backed Gull), Tim Dean (Escapes, Hybrids and Unknown Origin, List of Contributors, Highlights), Peter Fletcher (Feral Pigeon to Red-rumped Swallow), Mike Richardson (Cetti's Warbler to Pied Flycatcher), Alan Tilmouth (Dunnock to Corn Bunting), Dan Turner (WeBS Coastal Counts) and Steve Holliday (WeBS Inland Counts).

Thanks to David Sanders of NNBC for providing data.

Proof reading was by Mike Smith.

Edited by Steve Barrett [NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com](mailto:NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com)

Mail distribution by Paul Stewart.

#### RECORD SUBMISSION

Please email [ntbcorg@gmail.com](mailto:ntbcorg@gmail.com) for a copy of the standard spreadsheet and other details.

Location names and grid references: The use of standard location names and the include grid references as this greatly increases the value of records in subsequent analyses. A 1km square grid reference is the ideal e.g. NY8067 for Grindon Lough, but 2km square references (tetrads) are also acceptable e.g. NY86D in this case. A list of localities and their tetrad grid references (tetrad/Locality List) can be downloaded from the 'Resources & Downloads' section of the Club website at <http://www.ntbc.org.uk> – the use of these names, wherever possible, would be highly appreciated.



Could club members ensure they to submit records direct to NTBC rather than just Birdtrack. There may be an assumption by some members this happens automatically. We do not want to miss records.

### **LATE RECORDS – AN APPEAL**

There have been numbers of late records for BIN 2013. The great majority of records are received early in the month following the sighting and such records are used in the monthly bulletin and form the basis upon which the BIN is written. It is a thankless task altering species accounts well after the BIN year has finished because records are received late; in some cases records are 15 months old.

Please submit records as soon as practical. This will save a lot of headaches and make the publication date of BIN earlier to the benefit of all.

### **PHOTOGRAPHS AND ILLUSTRATIONS**

Please keep submitting your articles, photographs, sketches and illustrations for the bulletin. Thanks again to those who have supplied the excellent photographs. Please send to Steve Barrett at [NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com](mailto:NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com)

It is preferable if you re-size your photos before sending and a suggested size is 640 x 480 pixels. Please ensure you include the following information with your submissions: name, species, date taken, locality.

Photographs will not be used elsewhere without the photographer's permission.

### **MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Membership costs £30 per year. For membership enquiries please contact [ntbc@jobentley.plus.com](mailto:ntbc@jobentley.plus.com)

### **NTBC WEB SITE**

The Club website is an excellent resource for all interested in birds in the north-east. There are numerous interesting sections, including a photograph gallery, site information and trip reports together with extensive reference information for birding in our area. Please submit any new content for the website to the main club email address at [ntbcorg@gmail.com](mailto:ntbcorg@gmail.com)

### **NTBC SIGHTINGS PAGE**

The Sightings Page contains current sightings by members. Access is from the NTBC website.

Members need to submit a request to be added to the website, specifying the email address they wish to post from before they can submit sightings to [ntbcorg@gmail.com](mailto:ntbcorg@gmail.com)

### **BULLETIN WRITERS**

We need a writer for the Dunnock to Buntings section of the Bulletin. Why not give it a try?

### **WEBS COUNTER NEEDED FOR CAISTRON NR**

One of the county's best inland sites is becoming available in September 2014. If anyone is interested in taking on the site which involves carrying out monthly counts of all the water-birds, please contact Steve Holliday on 01670 731963 or email at [steveholliday@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:steveholliday@hotmail.co.uk)

### **DAVID-GARDNER MEDWIN RIP**

Members who knew David will be sorry to hear of his death on 14th June in St Oswald's. Our condolences go to his wife Alison, who spent some memorable times with David out seeking birds. His contributions to club records for the annual report are much valued, as always. At David's special request a recording of a choir of Scandinavian Whimbrels was played during his funeral.

NTBC Committee

### **ST MARY'S WETLAND GROUP AGM**

The St. Mary's Island Wetland Conservation Group will be holding its first Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Thursday 4th September starting at 8 pm. The venue is Colin Bradshaw's house, at 9 Tynemouth Place, Tynemouth.

The purpose of the AGM is to:

- Formalise the group;
- Outline its plans, aims and objectives;
- Outline the proposed management plan; and
- Consider and agree the actions required to begin future conservation management work.

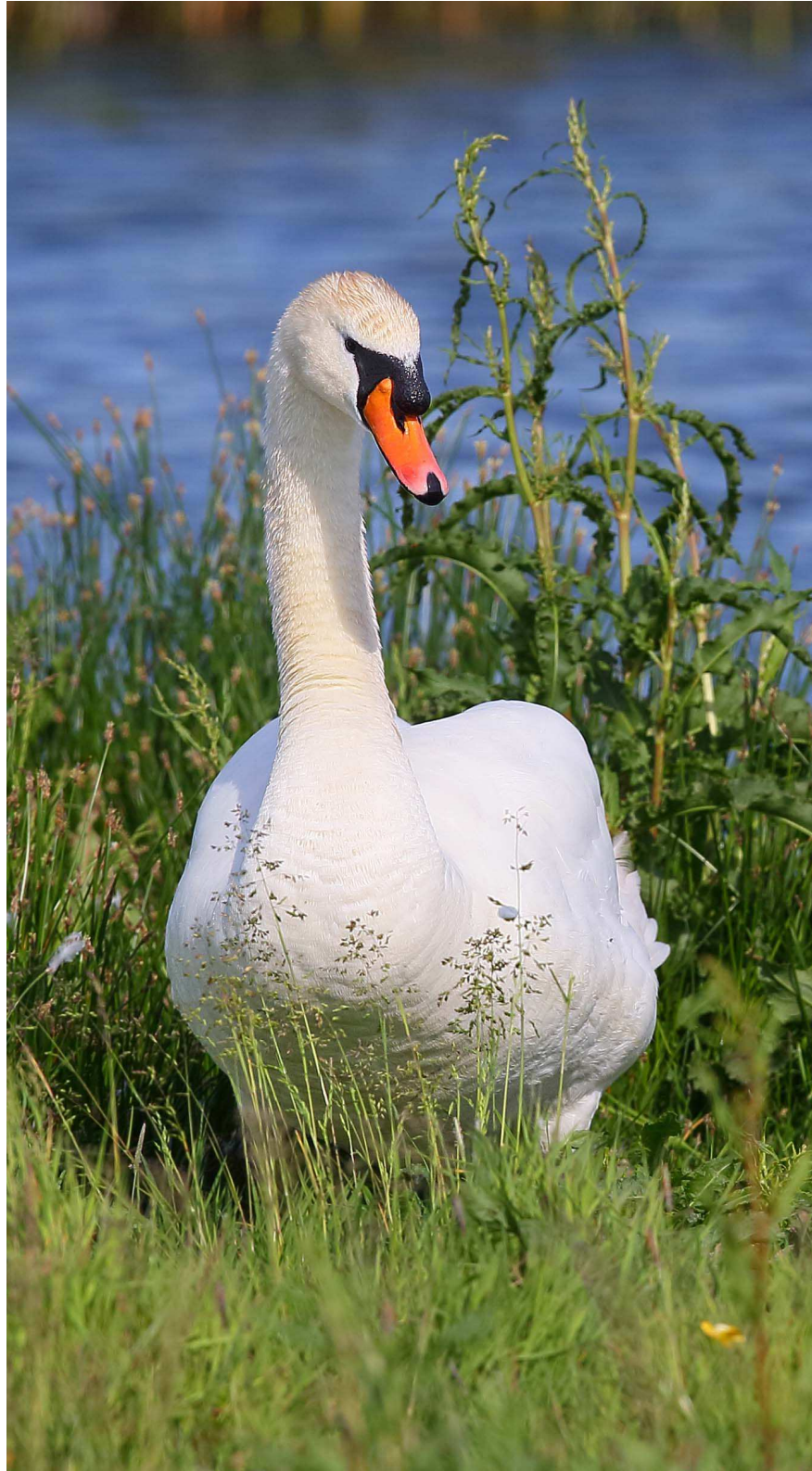
Membership of the Group is free and open to all with an interest in the conservation of St Mary's Island Wetland. Anyone wishing to join the Group and/or attend the AGM should contact Colin Bradshaw via email ([drcolin.bradshaw@btinternet.com](mailto:drcolin.bradshaw@btinternet.com))

**GREAT NORTH RUN**

I am running the Great North Run on 7th September this year to raise funds for the Northumberland Wildlife Trust. I am sure that you all know of the work that the NWT do, including managing reserves both on the coast and at inland sites, supporting Red Squirrels Northern England and the Living Seas Project. If you would like to sponsor me, both I and the Northumberland Wildlife Trust would be very grateful for any donation that you can make and you can do so via my fund-raising page <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/SarahBarratt> or (assuming that I am still able to walk by then) I would hope to be at the indoor meeting in September and will bring a sponsor form with me.

Thank you very much

Sarah Barratt



A Mute Swan at Howdon Wetland  
Colin Bradshaw

**FOUND**

Canon camera lens cap at Cresswell Pond / Stilt Sandpiper on 30 June. Please contact with details to reclaim.  
Thanks

Michael Frankis [michael.frankis@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:michael.frankis@blueyonder.co.uk)



## COASTAL WEBS COUNTS: NORTHUMBERLAND

MAY 2014

Site	Berwick North Shore (including Little Beach)		Berwick Little Beach		Tweed Estuary		Tweed: A1 By-Pass to Horncliffe		Spital - Cocklawburn		Lindisfarne NNR (including Budle Bay)		Budle Bay		Budle Pt - Seahouses		Seahouses - Beadnell		Howick - Boulmer		Aln Estuary		Newbiggin - Cambois		Blyth Estuary		Tyne North Pier - Fish Quay		East Howdon, (north bank only)		Redheugh - Scotswood Bridge, (north bank)		Scotswood - Newburn Bridge, (north bank)		
	TOTAL	MHu	MHu	MHu	MHu	TB	MHu	AC	n/c	RP	MLC	JAR	TAC	RC	LJM	DMT	DMT	DMT	DMT	DMT	DMT	DMT	DMT	DMT	DMT	DMT	DMT	DMT	DMT	DMT	DMT	DMT	DMT		
Counter		15	15	16	16	16	16	18		12	20	19	18	18	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17		
Date		1																																	
Red-throated Diver	2						1																												
Little Grebe	1																																		
Cormorant	99	10		8	2	11	19				18																								
Shag	16	5					3	2		6																									
Grey Heron	31			8	6	1	8				1	2	3																						
Mute Swan	272			186	44		7						9		24																				
Greylag Goose	4			2																															
Canada Goose	10			1									9																						
Shelduck	180			1								24	36		52		4	11	4																
Gadwall	4			2				46							2																				
Teal	16							10					6																						
Mallard	150	2		44	53		2	14			1		18		6																				
Tufted Duck	7							5																											
Eider	451	15		6		29	154			78	119	25	10	3	7	5																			
Common Scoter	189					154				35																									
Red-breasted Merganser	14					3				6	5																								
Goosander	19	1		11	3							4																							
Moorhen	3						2					1																							
Coot	2						2																												
Oystercatcher	413	45		8	12	9	153				61	29	47	7	32	10																			
Ringed Plover	571			96		24	264								187																				
Grey Plover	32						32																												
Lapwing	34						11					2	21																						
Sanderling	4			2		2																													
Purple Sandpiper	11									11																									
Dunlin	186							186							46																				
Black-tailed Godwit	46							51																											
Bar-tailed Godwit	51							6																											
Whimbrel	8			1				17																											
Curlew	282	3		2		2	241				6	19			8																				
Redshank	18							17				1																							
Common Sandpiper	2				2																														
Turnstone	152																																		
Black-headed Gull	326	2		2	10	3	116			112	7				3																				
Common Gull	25			1							68	10	80		13																				
Lesser Black-backed Gull	92			21		2	15						16																						
Herring Gull	1,086	158		184	45	137	90				75	98	11		83																				
Great Black-backed Gull	61	2		12	1		5				19	1																							
Kittiwake	379	3		66							278																								
Sandwich Tern	207	26		6		52	47			6	10	31			2																				
Common Tern	51			2							9																								
Arctic Tern	26										26																								
Little Tern	2										2																								
ADDITIONAL SPECIES																																			
Black Swan	1			1																															

COASTAL WEBS COUNTS: NORTHUMBERLAND

JUNE	2014
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AC A. Craggs  
MLC M. L. Cadwallender  
JAR J. Roper

TAC T. A. Cadwallender  
LJM L. J. McDougall  
DMT D. M. Turner

Site	Berwick North Shore (including Little Beach)		Berwick Little Beach		Tweed Estuary		Tweed: A1 By-Pass to Horncliffe		Spittal - Cocklawburn		Lindisfarne NNR (including Budle Bay)		(Budle Bay)		Seahouses - Beadnell		Howick - Boulmer		Ain Estuary		Blyth Estuary		Tyne North Pier - Fish Quay		East Howdon, (north bank only)	
	TOTAL	MHu	MHu	MHu	MHu	TB	MHu	AC	AC	MLC	JAR	TAC	LJM	DMT	JAR	TAC	LJM	DMT	JAR	TAC	LJM	DMT	JAR	TAC	LJM	DMT
		11	11	12	15	16	15	16	15	15	20	16	18	14	15	20	16	18	14	15	16	15	16	16	15	16
Cormorant	119	16	16	16	16		3	33		18	2															
Shag	8	7																								
Grey Heron	62	4		15	4		1	19	1	1	3	14	1													
Mute Swan	317			262	13			10	2			8	24													
Canada Goose	19			5								14														
Shelduck	223			2				138	40		39	24	20													
Wigeon	6			1				5																		
Teal	17							17																		
Mallard	175			46	78			21	12	1	5	22	2													
Pintail	1							1																		
Tufted Duck	2							2																		
Eider	619	14					21	400	8	119	35	8	10	12												
Common Scoter	5						5																			
Goldeneye	1	1																								
Red-breasted Merganser	18							13		5																
Goosander	97	18		38	2	14	14	14			2		9													
Moorhen	10							1				8	1													
Coot	2							2																		
Oystercatcher	457	12		12	15	22	285	12	61	28	12	4	6													
Ringed Plover	102					4	80	8				18														
Lapwing	68						46					22														
Dunlin	79						79																			
Bar-tailed Godwit	43						43																			
Curlew	374		4			1	297		6	21	43	2														
Redshank	17						11				6															
Common Sandpiper	2				2																					
Turnstone	43						35			7		1														
Black-headed Gull	374	2	2				144		68	93	36	18														
Common Gull	110	1	1	1		1	92		15																	
Lesser Black-backed Gull	53	1	11				19					20														
Herring Gull	1,360	210	145	5	52	56		56	75	327		152	248	90												
Great Black-backed Gull	69	4	10			2		2	19	1		4	29													
Kittiwake	573	17	256		7				278	2			12	1												
Sandwich Tern	190	9	110				12	27	9	10	14		8													
Common Tern	15						2	2	2	9																
Arctic Tern	44							18	12	26																
Little Tern	4							2	2	2																
Kingfisher	0																									
TOTALS - WILDFOWL	1,701	60	0	386	97	44	676	63	144	86	98	71	21	18												
- WADERS	1,185	12	0	16	17	27	876	20	74	49	83	25	6	0												
- GULLS & TERNS	2,792	244	0	535	5	72	362	25	487	452	36	202	291	106												





# Northumberland and Tyneside Bird Club

Registered Charity No. 517641

<http://www.ntbc.org.uk/>

**Bulletin 2014 No 7**

**MONTHLY SUMMARY – JULY**

**3rd September 2014**



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Pintail

Garganey

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Ruddy Duck

Quail

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Storm petrel

Bittern

Cattle Egret

Curlew Sandpiper

Stilt Sandpiper

Temminck's Stint

Little Stint

White-rumped Sandpiper

Collared Pratincole

Black-winged Pratincole

Bearded Tit

## Addition for June

Great Reed Warbler

Single still at Hauxley up to 25th.

Two toured the county from 5th to 11th.

A female on 4th at Hauxley, unusual in summer.

Singles at Arcot Pond and Haughton Strother GP.

First-summer male at Derwent Reservoir until 13th.

Male still touring various sites during month.

Only two heard during month.

Single off East Chevington on 6th.

Three trapped and ringed at Annsteads on 23rd.

Single summering at Gosforth Park.

One flew over Whitley Bay on 1st. 2nd record for county.

Single at Cresswell Pond from 23rd to 30th.

A fine summer-plumaged adult at Cresswell Pond on 29th and 30th. Second for county after one in 2012.

Singles at Derwent Reservoir & Newton.

Singles at Hoppen Kiln & Grindon Lough.

Adult at Cresswell Pond on 26th.

One at Castle Island on 28th. Third for county with singles in 1966 and 1983.

One at Holywell on 7th. Previously seen last month at Hauxley on 12th June but not submitted. The first record for the county.

Up to three seen at East Chevington.

Male singing at Cresswell Pond on 4th June. Record card misplaced !

A welcome addition to the  
Northumberland scene,  
one of the Spoonbills from  
Druridge Pools

Photographed by Tim  
Dean.





**FIELD TRIPS**

Sunday Sept 21st ; **Northumberland coast, Cresswell-Hauxley**

Sunday Oct 19th, **Holy Island**

Any members who are interested in any of the above field trip please email Steve Anderson [seaswan@btinternet.com](mailto:seaswan@btinternet.com)

**INDOOR MEETINGS**

NTBC indoor meetings are held at Northern Rugby Club, McCracken Park, Great North Road, Newcastle, NE3 2DT starting at 7.00pm and generally finish between 9.00pm-9.30pm.

The first meeting of the 2014-2015 season is on 11th September.

**Northumbrian Bird Atlas – ‘Some ups and downs’** Tim Dean, Northumberland Bird Recorder and co-ordinator of Northumberland Bird Atlas

- Tim will give us the ‘low down’ on the Northumberland status of a range of species surveyed during the Atlas fieldwork. There is also a chance for a sneak preview of the upcoming publication.

**CLASSIFIED LIST**

The following account consists of unchecked reports. The species/subspecies marked \* require descriptions.

A complete list of all sightings that need notes is included in the NTBC website [www.ntbc.org.uk](http://www.ntbc.org.uk) under the County Records Committee section and in Birds in Northumbria 2012 page 236.

The Inland and Coastal Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) tables are at the rear of the bulletin. These contain counts additional to those in the Classified List.

**Mute Swan** *Cygnus olor*

Peak gatherings were 280 at the Tweed Estuary on 9th (MHu), 86 at Killingworth Lake on 9th (DM), 33-36 at the Blyth Estuary (LJM), Castle Island (DM), Ladyburn Lake (DM) and QEII CP (PRM), ten to 16 at Broomlee and Grindon Loughs, and six to eight at the Blyth Estuary, Bothal Pond, Greenlee Lough and Newcastle Leazes Park.

Breeding data were as follows (additional to June reports):

Locality	No. of broods	No. of young	Observer/notes
Bywell Haughs	1	6	PRM. On 3rd
Hauxley Reserve	1	6	TRC. ON 4th
Newton Pool	1	5	JMA. On 2nd

**Whooper Swan** *Cygnus cygnus*

One was at Holy Island on 21st (JL).

**Pink-footed Goose** *Anser brachyrhynchus*

One was noted regularly at Haughton Strother GP during the month (MR).

**Greylag Goose** *Anser anser*

Peak counts were 142 at Hauxley Reserve on 30th (HRS), 51 at Marden Quarry on 13th (KWY), 40 at Bothal Pond on 27th (TD), and 23-34 at Backworth, Low Newton Flash and ‘Northumberlandia’ (Cramlington). Two to seven were also at Cocklawburn, Druridge Pools, Grindon Lough, Killingworth Lake, Linton Ponds and Newcastle Leazes Park. Breeding data were as follows (additional to June reports):

Locality	No. of broods	No. of young	Observer/notes
Haughton Strother GP	1	5	MR. Brings total for year to 4 broods (20 young)

Breeding data for June 2014 were as follows:

Locality	No. of broods	No. of young	Observer/notes
Ladyburn Lake	2	8	LJM. On 7th
Hedgeley GP	2	5	LJM. On 17th
Branton GP	1	7	KDa <i>per</i> STH. On 15th.
Horton Grange, Blagdon	1	6	PCF. On 8th
Cresswell Pond	1	1	LJM. On 10th

**Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis*

Highest counts were 138 at Grindon Lough on 28th (SJH), 112 at Hauxley Reserve on 30th (HRS), 100 at Killingworth Lake on 9th (DM), 61-66 at Haughton Strother GP (MR), Newcastle Leazes Park (DM) and QEII CP (PRM), 52-58 at Bothal Pond (TD) and Castle Island (DM/STH/PJA), and 23-32 at Catcleugh Reservoir, Cresswell and Linton Ponds. Two to nine were also at Arcot Pond, Druridge Pools, the Tweed Estuary and Woodhorn Flashes. Breeding data were as follows (additional to previous months unless otherwise stated):

Locality	No. of broods	No. of young	Observer/notes
Catcleugh Reservoir	2	8 (5,3)	MD. On 10th
Arcot Pond	1	7	PRM. On 4th
Druridge Pools	1	5	CDB. On 8th
Scaup Farm, Kielder	1	7	MD. On 12th

Canada Goose breeding data for June 2014 were as follows:

Locality	No. of broods	No. of young	Observer/notes
Linton Ponds	3	14	STH. From 20th
Widdrington Moor Lake	3	14	LJM. On 7th
Hedgeley GP	3+	9+	LJM/KDa. From 15th
Arcot Pond	2	6	LJM. On 14th
Druridge Pools	2	5	DM <i>et al.</i> On 15th
Cresswell Pond	1	9	PRM. On 5th
Horton Grange, Blagdon	1	5	PCF. On 8th
Newcastle Leazes Park	1	1	DM. On 2nd
Castle Island	--	23	GB. Crèche on 12th
Branton GP	--	13	KDa per STH. On 15th

Correction: the report of one brood (seven young) at Kitty Brewster in June should have referred to Shelduck, and 57 at Branton GP involved all adults.

#### **Egyptian Goose** *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

One was at Hauxley Reserve on 4th (TRC) and 25th (JSB).

#### **Ruddy Shelduck** *Tadorna ferruginea*

Two were at Gosforth Park NR on 5th (NHSN), Tweed Estuary on 9th (MHu), and flying S at East Chevington on 11th (IF).

#### **Shelduck** *Tadorna tadorna*

Budle Bay held 80 on 12th (CGK), seven at Cresswell Pond on 8th (CDB), and one to three at Castle Island, Gosforth Park NR, Hauxley Reserve and Lynemouth Flash. Breeding data were as follows (additional to previous months unless stated):

Locality	No. of broods/crèches	No. of young	Observer/notes
Hauxley Reserve	6	29	TRC. On 4th
Amble	3	43	MSH. On 15th. (39 young noted on 4th; PRM)
Backworth	1	3	CGK <i>et al.</i>

Correction: Breeding data for June 2014 were as follows:

Locality	No. of broods/crèches	No. of young	Observer/notes
Cresswell Pond	2+	24	SRB/STH/MSH <i>et al.</i> First broods between 2nd-19th
Castle Island	2	22-24	GB/STH. From 12th. Included crèche of 15
Blyth Estuary	1-2	10-17	GB/LJM. From 12th
Seghill flash	1	8	JPD. On 29th
Branton GP	1	4	KDa per STH. On 15th

#### **Mandarin** *Aix galericulata*

Three females or juveniles were at Ridley Stokoe on 6th (AA).

#### **Wigeon** *Anas penelope*

One flew N at Seaton Sluice on 10th (SSWT). Numbers at Grindon Lough varied from 17-39 between 6th-30th and reached a peak of 45 on 15th (PRM/SJH). Three to four were at Gosforth Park NR and Hauxley Reserve, and singles at Arcot and Bothal Ponds and Big Waters.

Breeding data were as follows:

Locality	No. of broods	No. of young	Observer/notes
Grindon Lough	2	15	PRM <i>et al.</i> New brood of 8 noted on 8th. Brood of 7 as June?



A Gadwall family in the Druridge rain by Chris Barlow on 8th July



**Gadwall** *Anas strepera*

Largest counts (excluding juveniles) were 26 at Hauxley Reserve on 30th (HRS), 20 at Arcot Pond on 16th (PRM), 16 at Bothal Pond on 19th (TF/JFa). One to three were at Castle Island, Cresswell and Linton Ponds, Gosforth Park NR, Ladyburn Lake, Low Newton Flash and Marden Quarry.

Gadwall breeding data were as follows (additional to previous months unless otherwise stated):

Locality	No. of broods	No. of young	Observer/notes
Big Waters	2	15 (8,7)	GB. All fledged by the end of the month
Ladyburn Lake	2	12 (6,6)	LJM. On 15th
Hauxley Reserve	2+	8+	TRC/TRD/HRS. From 4th
Castle Island	2	6 (3,3)	STH/DM/PJA. On 13th
Druridge Pools	2	11 (9,2)	CDB/LJM. From 1st-8th. May include June broods
Bothal Pond	1-2	8-14	TRD/PRM. On 15th-16th
Linton Pond	1	8	TRC. On 15th. Same as June?

Correction: 23 at Linton Ponds in June were all adults.

**Teal** *Anas crecca*

Ten flew N at Seaton Sluice on 10th (SSWT). Grindon Lough held nine to 25 between 6th-30th, with a peak of 27 on 18th (SJH/PRM). Other peak counts were 12 early returning birds at Holy Island 'Rocket Field' on 5th (IK), 11 at West Hartford on 19th (STH), eight to ten at Hauxley Reserve (HRS), Low Newton Flash (JMA), and Monks' House Flash (JMA), and three to four at Arcot Pond, Hoppen Kiln Flash and West Hartford. One to two were also at Backworth, Bothal, Cresswell and Linton Ponds, and Gosforth Park NR.

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*

Peak concentrations were 138 at Druridge Pools on 8th (CDB), 103 at Big Waters on 2nd (AJJ per GB), 94 at Holywell Pond on 18th (SPP), 55-82 at Gosforth Park NR, Grindon Lough, Jesmond Dene, Killingworth and Ladyburn Lakes, Marden Quarry, Newcastle Leazes Park and Whittle Dene Reservoirs, and 24-47 at Arcot Pond, Castle Island, Haughton Strother GP, Hauxley Reserve, Morpeth and Newton Pool.

Breeding data were as follows (additional to previous months unless otherwise stated):

Locality	No. of broods	No. of young	Observer/notes
Castle Island	4	33 (13,10,6,4)	STH/DM/PJA. On 13th. Probably includes some broods from June
Killingworth Lake	4	17	LJM/JPD.
Bothal Pond	3	25 (9,8,8)	IRD. On 6th
Linton Ponds	4	24 (9,8,4,3)	CDH. New broods of 9 and 8 on 14th. Also 2 Tufted Duck young with brood (presumed from egg dumping)
Monks' House Pool	2	15 (10,5)	JMA/MSH
Haughton Strother GP	2	11	MR. Two new broods bringing total for year to 5 broods (32 young)
Holywell Pond	2	10	LJM. On 5th
West Stobswood Pool	2	10 (8,2)	IF/MSH. Between 11th-17th
West Ord	2	7 (4,3)	MHu. On 13th

Single broods were also noted at Airy Holm Reservoir (ten young), Arcot Pond (seven), Hauxley Reserve (one), Holywell Dene (six), Newcastle Civic Centre (five), Newcastle Exhibition Park (ten), Newcastle Leazes Park (eight), and Newton Pool (three).

**Pintail** *Anas acuta*

Three were at Castle Island on 3rd (ADMc) and one was at Hauxley Reserve on 4th (TRC).

**Garganey** *Anas querquedula*

An adult female was at Arcot Pond on 6th (STH) and again on 20th and 24th (LJM), and one was at Haughton Strother GP on 27th-28th (MR).

**Shoveler** *Anas clypeata*

Eight were at Cresswell Pond on 26th (MSH), three at Grindon Lough on 9th (AJR), and one to two at Arcot Pond, Druridge Pools, Gosforth Park NR, Hauxley Reserve, 'Northumberlandia' (Cramlington), St Mary's Wetland and West Hartford.

**Pochard** *Aythya ferina*

Eight were at Bothal Pond on 15th (TRC) and two to seven regularly between 6th-30th (TF/JFa/PRM *et al.*), four to five at Cresswell Pond (TB/NFO) and Gosforth Park NR (CDB), and one to two at Druridge Pools, Hauxley Reserve, Killingworth Lake and Swallow Pond.

Pochard breeding data were as follows (additional to June unless otherwise stated):

Locality	No. of broods	No. of young	Observer/notes
Swallow Pond	3	8 (4,2,2)	JPD. Broods of 4 and 2 on 1st (includes brood from June?) and new brood of 2 on 6th.
Arcot Pond	2	7+	PRM. On 4th and 16th. Same broods as June?



A handsome drake Pochard at Killingworth Lake by Tim Dean

#### **Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula*

Peak counts (excluding juveniles) were 60 at Bothal Pond (PRM), 48 at Druridge Pools on 8th (CDB) and 24th (TF/JFa), 37 at Killingworth Lake on 9th (DM), 20-27 at Broomlee Lough, Cresswell and Swallow Ponds, and Hauxley Reserve, and 11-19 at Branton GP, Holywell Pond, Ladyburn Lake and Newcastle Leazes Park. One to four were at eight further sites. Breeding data were as follows (additional to June unless otherwise stated):

Locality	No. of broods	No. of young	Observer/notes
Bothal Pond	6+	36+	PRM/TD. From 12th-16th. Largest broods = 8
Hauxley Reserve	4+	28+	TRC/HRS. From 4th. Largest brood = 9
Haughton Strother GP	4	21	MR. Total for month
Arcot Pond	3	23	LJM/PRM/STH. From 4th. Largest broods = 8
West Stobswood Pool	3	14	IF/MSH. From 11th
Swallow Pond	3	10	JPD/SPP. From 6th
Branton GP	2	17	KDa per STH. On 12th
Druridge Pools	2	13	CDB. On 8th. May included brood from June
Ladyburn Lake	2	13	LJM. On 15th, included brood of 9
Grindon Lough	2	11	MRS/PRM/SJH. From 15th. Includes brood from June?
Wansbeck Business Park, Ashington	2	10	LJM. On 8th, included brood of 9
Marden Quarry	2	7	KWY.
Holywell Pond	2	7	LJM. On 5th
Linton Ponds	2+	16+	TRC/STH/CDH. From 3rd. Largest brood = 9
Whittle Dene Reservoirs	1	8	SR. On 8th (later reduced to 5)
Shasun Pharma, Cramlington	1	5	JA per LJM. On 15th
Hedgeley GP	1	7	KDa per STH. On 12th.
Alnwick gardens	1	3	JMA. On 22nd
Killingworth Lake	1	3	LJM. On 31st
Broomlee Lough	1	2	MRS. On 15th
Castle Island	1	2	STH/DM/PJA. On 13th



Breeding data for June 2014 were as follows:

Locality	No. of broods	No. of young	Observer/notes
Holy Island Lough	3	16 (7,6,3)	IK. Brood of 6 on 8th (down to 5 by 21st), and broods of 7 and 3 on 21st.
Rothley Lake	2	--	TRD/JD. On 25th.
Widdrington Moor Lake	1	8	GB. On 28th.
Grindon Lough	1	7	PRM. On 26th.
Druridge Pools	1	6	IFo. 'Newish' brood on 23rd.



Tufted Duck with ducklings at Druridge Pools on 22nd July

**Scaup** *Aythya marila*

Singles were at Druridge Pools on 8th (CDB) and Cresswell Pond on 26th (IJ/TRC/MK).

**Eider** *Somateria mollissima*

105 were at Cocklawburn on 7th (MHu), about 80 at Amble on 4th (PRM), 55 at Cambois Bay on 27th (STH), and 34 at Berwick North Shore (MHu). One to four were also noted at Newbiggin, St Mary's and the Tweed Estuary. A duck accompanied three ducklings at Sharper's Head, Berwick on 11th (MHu).

**Long-tailed Duck** *Clangula hyemalis*

The long-staying first-summer drake was at Derwent Reservoir until at least 13th (IFo).

**Common Scoter** *Melanitta nigra*

Coastal movement involved 386 N at St Mary's between 12th-26th (JPD/MSH), 298 N and 45 S at Seaton Sluice between 11th-27th (SSWT), a total of 106 N at Snab Point on 12th and 26th (JR), and 47 N at Newbiggin on 21st (TRC). About 1,000, in three separate flocks, were off East Chevington on 6th (TRD/JD), eight at Cocklawburn on 1st rose to 266 by 17th (MHu), 250 were off Druridge on 26th (TRD/JD), and 97 at Newbiggin (IJ/TRC). A drake was at Arcot Pond on 19th (GMi/STH).

**Velvet Scoter** *Melanitta fusca*

Singles flew N at Newbiggin on 9th (TRC), Seaton Sluice on 10th (SSWT), Snab Point on 12th (JR), and St Mary's on 23rd (JPD).

**Goldeneye** *Bucephala clangula*

Six were at Cresswell Pond on 12th (TRC), and one to two there on seven dates between 6th-28th (TB/TRD/CDB *et al.*), two were at Bothal Pond on 24th (TF/JFa), and singles at Cocklawburn on 7th (MHu), Holy Island on 21st (JL), and Budle Bay on 26th (juvenile; CGK). One was also at the breeding site on 7th (JD).

**Red-breasted Merganser** *Mergus serrator*

Two N at St Mary's on 10th (MSH) was the sole report.

**Goosander** *Mergus merganser*

Five flew N at Seaton Sluice on 11th (SSWT) and one N at Newbiggin on 21st (TRC). A very notable 452 amassed at North Shore, Berwick on 11th (MHu). This is the by far the largest concentration yet recorded in the county, previous highest counts being 230-250 at Holy Island in August 2010 and 246 at Cocklawburn in July 2012. Also in the north of the county (and possibly including some overlap), 246 were at Cocklawburn on 17th (MHu), about 180 at Holy Island on 20th (IK), 102 at Spittal cliffs on 10th (MHu), 60 at Stag Rocks on 31st (TRD), and 54 at the Tweed Estuary on 9th (MHu). 11 juveniles were at the Blyth Estuary on 27th (STH), and one to four were also at Amble, Budle Bay, Rothbury and Tynemouth.

**Ruddy Duck** *Oxyura jamaicensis*

A drake was at Arcot Pond on 1st (JPD), and presumably the same drake at Bothal Pond on 8th, 28th and 30th (TB), and at a confidential site on 15th (seen displaying repeatedly to Tufted Duck ducklings; TRC) and 28th-29th (JPD/TRD).

**Quail** *Coturnix coturnix*

Only two reports were received during the month. One was heard calling at Mootlaw Quarry (Ryal) on 6th (ALT) the other heard calling at Hauxley NR from 07:45-09:10h on 15th (TRD).

**Red Grouse** *Lagopus lagopus*

A nest with six hatched was found at Kielderhead on 9th with a female with three young nearby. A female with one young was at Paddaburn Moor on 11th and a female with six young near Kielder on 25th (MD).

**Grey Partridge** *Perdix perdix*

A pair was seen with six half-grown young at Beacon Lane (Cramlington) on 13th (DM). Records of two came from Ellington and Thornham Hill (Matten) and singles noted at Linden Hall, Newton Pool and 'Northumberlandia'.

**Pheasant** *Phasianus colchicus*

A female was seen accompanying five large young at West Hartford on 29th (STH) and two were in a Walbottle garden on 13th (KR/LR).

**Red-throated Diver** *Gavia stellata*

Two flew N and one S in 18 hours of sea-watching at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT). Singles flew N at Newbiggin on 9th (TRC) and St Mary's Island on 26th (JPD). Two were offshore in Druridge Bay on 6th (TRD/JD/NFO).

**Great Northern Diver** *Gavia immer*

One was offshore at East Chevington on 6th (TRD/JD).

**Fulmar** *Fulmarus glacialis*

Eight juveniles were noted at Tynemouth Priory cliffs on 26th (SPP) and one at Rockcliffe (Whitley Bay) on 20th (IJ). One to three adults were noted at Newbiggin, Newton Point, Rockcliffe and the Tweed Estuary.



A Fulmar soars past Snab Point  
by Tim Dean

**Sooty Shearwater** *Puffinus griseus*

One flew N at St Mary's Island on 26th (JPD).



**Manx Shearwater** *Puffinus puffinus*

Light N passage was again noted during the month. At Seaton Sluice maximum counts of 50/hour on 5th and 53 in four hours on 11th were recorded (SSWT). At Newbiggin 40 flew past in two hours on 21st and 22 flew past on 9th (TRC), 36/hour were noted on 10th (ASH/IK), 24/hour on 11th, 18/hour on 23rd and 6/hour on 24th (ASH). At Snab Point 15/hour were noted on 20th (ASH) and ten passed in one hour on 12th (JR). Seven were noted in 30 minute counts at St Mary's Island on 10th/12th (MSH). Three to six were noted at Holy Island, Newbiggin, St Mary's Island and Snab Point on four dates. At Emmanuel Head (Holy Island) 15 flew S in one hour on 19th (IK) and three flew S at St Mary's Island on 26th (JPD).

**Storm Petrel** *Hydrobates pelagicus*

Three were trapped at Annstead Point on 23rd (BRS).

**Gannet** *Morus bassanus*

The largest movements were 450 S in one hour on feeding trips at Emmanuel Head (Holy Island) on 19th (IK) and 350 N in one hour at Seaton Sluice on 11th (SSWT). At Newbiggin 65 flew N in one hour on 9th (JR) and 21 flew N in 30 minutes on 12th (MSH). At Spittal Bay (Berwick) there was a large feeding 'frenzy' of 500 on 6th with 60 present there on 2nd (MHu). One to six were noted at Druridge Bay, Newton Point, Rockcliffe (Whitley Bay) and Snab Point.

**Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Only light movement was noted at Seaton Sluice with 20 N and 10 S on 21st and 18 N and eight S on 23rd thought to have been genuine passage. The peak counts were 29 at Castle Island on 27th (LJM), 26 at Blyth Harbour on 23rd (STH), 22 at Amble on 4th (PRM) and 12 at Berwick North Shore on 11th (MHu). Ten were noted at the Blyth Estuary, Derwent Reservoir, Rockcliffe (Whitley Bay) and the Tweed Estuary. One to six were noted at Druridge Pools, Ladyburn Lake and Newbiggin. Three immature *sinensis* race birds were seen at Hauxley NR on 20th (MSH).

**Shag** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

One flew N at Seaton Sluice on 21st being the sole record at the site for the month (SSWT). Singles were noted at Berwick North Shore, Druridge Bay and East Chevington.

**Bittern** *Botaurus stellaris*

One was occasionally noted during the month at Gosforth Park NR (NHSN/CDB).

**\*Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis*

One flew low E over Felton Avenue Whitley Bay at 20:02 on 1st (TRC).

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*

The species was well reported during the month with 46 reports received. Two flew N at Newbiggin on 27th (TRC/IJ). The peak counts were 12 in Budle Bay on 24th (CGL/GPK) and seven at Cresswell Pond on 24th with up to five being seen there on 19 further dates during the month (TB *et al.*). Four were in the Tweed Estuary on 9th (MHu). Three were at Druridge Pools on 17th with one to two seen there on four further dates (SPP *et al.*). On 21st two were at East Chevington and Holy Island and Gosforth Park NR on 29th/30th. Singles were seen at Bell's Pond (Cresswell), Blyth Estuary, Castle Island, Low Newton Flash, Wansbeck Estuary, Warkworth Gut and West Stobswood Pool.



A recent arrival in our area, a Little Egret at Cresswell Pond by Tim Dean

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*

The peak counts were 19 in the Tweed Estuary on 9th (MHu), 14 during the month at Hartley West Farm (Holywell Dene) (RJP) and ten at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 8th (SR). Five were at Hauxley NR on 30th (HRS) and four throughout the month at Gosforth Park NR (NHSN). One to three were noted at A1 road bridge over River Aln, Alnwick, Amble, Arcot Pond, Bothal Pond, Castle Island, Cresswell Pond, Ladyburn Lake, Linton Lane and Pond, Monk's House Pool, Morpeth and Whittle Dene Reservoirs.

**Spoonbill** *Platalea leucorodia*

Three 2nd/3rd calendar year birds remained at Druridge Pools until 17th (Many observers). Three were also seen at Cresswell Pond on 17th (MSH). At this location three (two 3rd calendar year and one 4th calendar year bird) arrived from the south on 20th (MSH/TD) with two being noted here on 30th/31st (Many observers). Two were also at Druridge Pools on 30th and a single at Cresswell Pond on 13th. Two were in Budle Bay on 13th and one on 24th (GPK).



These visitors to the Druridge Pools would have been a major 'tick' a few years back.  
Spoonbills at rest by Chris Barlow and below in flight by Tim Dean





**Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Peak counts were 15 at Arcot Pond on 16th (PRM), ten (six adults) at Bothal Pond on 28th (TRD), eight adults at Holywell Pond on 5th (LJM) and four at the unusual location of Budle Bay on 26th (CGK). Three were at East Chevington on 12th (PCF). One to two were at Druridge Pools, Longhirst Flash, Marden Quarry, Newton Pool and Rothley Lakes.

Little Grebe additional breeding records are tabulated below:

Location	No. of broods	No. of young	Observer/Comments
Hauxley NR	3	6	HRS on 30th
Arcot Pond	2	5	LJM on 6th
Bothal Pond	2	4	TRD on 28th
Grindon Lough	2	4	MRS on 15th
Linton Ponds	2	2	CDH on 14th
Banks Pond Dinnington	1	2	PCF on 2nd
Branton GP	1	2	KDa on 12th
Gosforth Park NR	1	1	NHSN
Holywell Pond	1	1	LJM on 5th
Ladyburn Lake	1	1	LJM on 15th
Mootlaw Quarry (Ryal)	1	2	ALT on 13th
Whittle Dene Reservoirs	1	2	PCF on 9th

**Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus*

Two flew N at Seaton Sluice on 11th (SSWT). At Whittle Dene Reservoirs 13 adults were present on 29th (SR). Eight (four pairs) were at Derwent Reservoir all month (IFo). Seven adults were at East Chevington North Pool on 3rd/12th (TRC/PCF). Four were at Killingworth Lake on 4th (PCF). Two were at Bothal Pond on 5th/15th (TF/JFa/TRD). Two were at Arcot Pond on 15th (TRD) and a nesting pair was at Druridge Pools on 20th/30th (TD/CDB). Singles were noted at Airey Holm Reservoir (Shotleyfield), Branton GP, Cresswell Pond, Holy Island and the Tweed Estuary.

Additional breeding records are tabulated below:

Location	No. of broods	No. of young	Observer/Comments
Houghton Strother GP (Humshaugh)	1	5	MR
QEII Lake	1	1	PRM on 16th
Whittle Dene Reservoirs	1	2	SR on 29th



A Great Crested Grebe at the nest at Druridge Pools on 30th July by Chris Barlow

**Black-necked Grebe** *Podiceps nigricollis*

Three broods (five young) were present at a regular breeding location in South East Northumberland on 17th. At a second site in the south east an adult and a juvenile were present on 27th. A pair at a site in the south west had abandoned their nest by 28th.

**Red Kite** *Milvus milvus*

County Durham had its best year so far as 20 pairs fledged 34 young, almost twice as many as last year. One nest was just yards from the county boundary with Northumberland. The only sighting recorded in the county this month was a bird present at Gosforth Park NR on 24th (NHSN).

**Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*

Up to six birds including four juveniles were at East Chevington throughout the month (ADMc/IF *et al.*), and single birds were also noted at Cresswell Pond, Druridge Pools, Linton Pond, and Low Hauxley & Widdrington Moor Lake.

**Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*

Single birds were noted at Prudhoe on 1st and 2nd (IJ), West Hartford on 3rd (STH), Arcot Pond on 4th (PRM), West Stobswood Pool on 6th (MSH), St Mary's Island & Holywell Dene on 10th (CDH/ RJP), Walbottle on 13th (KR/LR), Marden Quarry on 19th (KWY), North Shields on 21st (DLo), Cramlington on 25th (DM), Jesmond Dene on 27th (DHWB) and at Bamburgh on 28th (BRS).

**Common Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*

3 Birds were at Spindleston on 13th (CGK) and two birds were seen at Windyhaugh on 3rd, Linton on 5th & Walwick Field (JMA). Single birds were reported from Arcot Lane, Grindon Lough, Matfen, South Charlton, and West Stobswood Pool and Whittle Dene Reservoirs.

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetuss*

An adult and two chicks were still in the nest at Kielder Water on 25th (TRD/JD) and single birds were noted at Derwent reservoir on 8th (JSB) and at Melkridge on 17th (SJH).

**Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus*

Big Waters and Gosforth Park NR had up to four birds including juveniles throughout the month (STE/NHSN *et al.*). Singles were seen or heard at Arcot Pond (PRM), Cresswell Pond (JSB), Druridge Pools (TRC) and Swallow Pond (JPD/SPP).

**Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*

35 birds at Big Waters (AJJ per GB) on 26th was the highest count this month, followed by 26 at Killingworth Lake on 4th (PRM) and 20 at Bothal Pond on 16th (PRM). 13 were at Hauxley NWT on 30th (HRS) and ten were at Arcot Pond on 4th & 13th (PRM/DM) and up to 10 were also at Grindon Lough on several dates (SJH). One to nine birds were at Alnwick Gardens (JMA), Bywell Haughs (PRM), Castle Island (DM), Cresswell Pond (CDB *et al.*), Humshaugh (MR), Leazes Park (DM), Linton Pond (CDH), Morpeth (DM), Newton Pool (JMA), St Mary's Wetland (PRM), Wallington Hall (CDB) and West Hartford (STH).

**Coot** *Fulica atra*

The highest counts were 84 birds at Killingworth Lake on 9th (DM), 80 birds at Bothal Pond on 27th (TD) and 43 at Linton Ponds on 14th (CDH). Hauxley NWT had 34 birds on 30th (HRS), Arcot Pond had 23 on 13th (DM), and up to 21 at Grindon Lough on several dates (SJH). One to eight birds were at seven other sites during the month.

**Avocet** *Recurvirostra avosetta*

There were many reports from Cresswell Pond where birds were present throughout the month and a maximum of 20 birds (13 adults, 7 juveniles) were seen on 24th (TB). One brood successfully fledged three young at Cresswell Pond and four other young seen regularly at the site had been bred elsewhere (ADMc *et al.*). A total of 21 chicks were counted across several sites in the SE in mid-month (ADMc).



Four elegant Avocets grace Cresswell Pond  
by Chris Barlow  
30th July



**Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus*

Coastal counts are on the increase as 110 were counted at Budle Bay on 26th (CGK) and 91 at North Blyth staithes & nearby on 30th (STH). Passage birds at Seaton Sluice totalled 47 S between 20th-23rd (SSWT) and groups elsewhere included 52 at Low Newton flash on 2nd (JMA), 50 at Hauxley NWT on 30th (HRS), 46 at Cocklawburn on 10th (MHu) and 26 at Berwick North Shore on 11th (MHu). Ten to 16 were also noted at Derwent Reservoir and the Tweed Estuary and single-figure reports came from a further 15 locations. Signs of breeding included a pair feeding two well grown young at Lynemouth Flash on 1st (LJM) and two pairs fledged a total of four young at Haughton Strother GP during the month (MR).

**Golden Plover** *Pluvialis apricaria*

Post-breeding birds included ca.200 at both St Mary's Island on 11th (JBu) and Holy Island (Northern birds) on 19th (IK), 77 at Backworth on 20th (CGK), 71 on rocks at Newbiggin on 21st (TRC) and 50 at Newton Point on 31st (TRD). Elsewhere, eight were at Castle Island on 31st (DLo), six at Cresswell Pond on 23rd (SRB) and three on the Tyne at Newcastle Business Park on 11th (DM).



A trio of summer plumage Golden Plover at St. Mary's by Alan Jack

**Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*

One, losing its breeding plumage, was seen at Holy Island on 20th (IK) and five were noted here the next day (JL).

**Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus*

Grindon Lough attracted the lion's share of the post-breeding birds with 141 on 6th (PRM) increasing to a high of 1,100 on 25th which was considered a minimum number present (PH). Smaller sized flocks included 300 at Druridge Pools on 20th (TD), 210 at Haughton Strother GP on 22nd MR), 140 at Backworth on 20th (CGK), 121 at Big Waters on 11th (SPP), 113 at Cresswell Pond on 26th (IJ/TRC/MK) and 100 at both Bothal Pond on 12th (TD) and East Chevington on 21st (IF). Some 40-85 were also reported at Cramlington (Arcot Lane and 'Northumberlandia'), Elswick (River Tyne), Hauxley NWT, Long Lee (Lilswood Moor), West Hartford and West Stobswood Pool, with fewer birds noted at six additional sites.

**Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius*

Successful breeding (four and one young) was reported from two confidential sites during the month. Numerous reports emanated from Cresswell Pond where one to two were seen throughout the month, with peaks of seven on 23rd (two adults & five juveniles) (NFO), four on 15th (TRC) and three on 3rd (ADM), 29th (IJ) and 31st (DLo). Low water levels at Castle Island attracted 6+ on 28th (ADM), five on 31st (ASH), and one to two on at least four further dates. Four adults were present at Derwent Reservoir on 1st with one to two here on three other dates (IFo); three juveniles were seen at Bothal Pond on 18th (TF/JFa) and two were at Grindon Lough on 18th (SJH). Reports of single birds also came from the following locations and perhaps reflected a good breeding season in the area: Blyth Estuary, Druridge Pools, Gosforth Park NR & adjacent pool, Hauxley NWT, Hoppen Kiln Flash (Bradford Kaims), Low Newton scrape, Lynemouth Flash, West Hartford and West Stobswood Pool.

**Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*

Lynemouth Bay held the peak of 12 on 27th (JL) and eight at Derwent Reservoir on 5th included three juveniles, with eight counted here again on 12th/13th (IFo). Five birds at West Stobswood Pool comprised four adults and one juvenile on 6th (MSH) and one to three were noted at Branton GP, Cresswell Pond, Druridge Pools, East Chevington, Grindon Lough and Newbiggin. Pairs were seen attending two juveniles at both Chevington Burn beach and Cramlington ('Northumberlandia') during the month (TD/STH).

**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*

Passage at Seaton Sluice totalled 38 S between 11th-23rd (SSWT). Further movement included 13 S at Cresswell Pond on 20th (ASH), a total of nine at St Mary's Island which included four moving off S on 21st (JBU/SPP), nine S at Newbiggin on 23rd (ASH), six S between Berwick and Goswick Sands on 21st (JL) and five S in six hours at Snab Point on 26th (JR). The Holy Island area held one on 2nd (JMA) and then eight and ten on 20th and 21st respectively (SR/AH/JL); and a maximum of six+ (25th) were present throughout the month in Budle Bay (CGK/GPK). Apart from three at Druridge Pools on 30th (CDB) and two in a flock of Curlew near Briar Dene Farm (Whitley Bay) on 18th (SPP) it was a case of singles being noted at the Blyth Estuary, Cramlington, Cresswell Pond (several dates), East Chevington (several dates), Dunstanburgh Castle, Gosforth, Hauxley NWT, Holywell Pond, Low Newton and St Mary's Island (several dates).

**Curlew** *Numenius arquata*

Increasing numbers of post-breeding flocks included 320 in Budle Bay on 26th (CGK), ca.200 flushed by a helicopter at Hauxley NWT on 10th (TRC), 100+ at Briar Dene Farm (Whitley Bay) on 18th (SPP), 80 roosting on rocks at Snab Point on 12th (JR), 62 on the Tweed Estuary on 9th (MHu), 56 in the Holywell Dene area on 30th (RJP), 25 at Amble on 4th (PRM) and 23 at Cresswell Pond on 1st (TRC). Eleven moved N at Cocklawburn on 1st (MHu) and one to three were noted at Castle Island, Cramlington, Grindon Lough, Newbiggin, St Mary's Wetland and on the River Tyne (Elswick Wharf-Newcastle Business Park).

**Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa*

Good numbers continued to summer at Cresswell Pond and peaks included 43 on 1st (NFO), 41 on 6th (IRD), 35 on 10th (IK/ASH), 26 on 23rd (SRB) and 23 on 30th (STH). Hoppen Kiln Flash (near Bradford Kaims) attracted 43 on 5th following a rain shower (GPK), 33 were in Budle Bay on 16th (GPK), 22 were at Low Newton scrape on 27th with 16 also here on 31st (CGK/GPK/TRD) whilst 18 were at Druridge Pools on 10th (IK/ASH) and Castle Island on 28th (CGK). Ten moved S over Ellington on 8th (TB). Smaller numbers were noted at some of these sites on several other occasions during the month namely, Budle Bay, Castle Island, Druridge Pools, Hoppen Kiln Flash and Low Newton scrape. Sightings elsewhere involved one to six at Big Waters (two over on 23rd), Blyth Estuary (five on 30th), Bothal Pond (six on 30th), East Chevington (four on 2nd), Holywell Pond (six on 12th), Shiremoor (heard calling at 23.45h on 5th), St Mary's Island (one S on 26th), the Tweed Estuary (four on 9th).

**Bar-tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica*

Nine moved S at St Mary's Island on 26th (JPD) and five headed N at Seaton Sluice on 10th (SSWT). Single birds were reported at East Chevington on 2nd, Cresswell Pond on 15th, Seaton Point (Boulmer) on 27th and Low Newton on 31st (TRD).

**Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*

The higher counts occurred late in the month: 20 at St Mary's on 27th (MSH), 29 at Boulmer also on 27th (NFO) and 33 at North Blyth on 30th (STH), the number at the latter location having risen from six on 20th. Earlier 14 flew over Cresswell Pond on 14th (IF) and ten were at Tynemouth on 24th (KWY). Smaller numbers were found at Hauxley, Low Newton and Newbiggin.

**Knot** *Calidris canutus*

At Snab Point 26 flew S in six hours on 26th (JR) when also two moved S at St Mary's. On the same date ten were at Cresswell Pond, eight in Budle Bay and six at Hauxley; 17 were at Stag Rocks on 24th (GPK). Smaller numbers appeared at most of these places on other dates and also at Hadston Carrs and Lynemouth Flash.

**Ruff** *Calidris pugnax*

Three were noted at Druridge Pools on 17th (TB) and on 20th (TD). One or two visited Cresswell Pond from 22nd, rising to three on 30th/31st (STH/TB *et al.*) and three were at Low Newton scrape on 31st (TRD). Singletons appeared at Holy Island on 6th, Hoppen Kiln Flash on 13th and at Low Newton scrape and Lynemouth Flash on 27th.

**Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea*

An adult at Lynemouth Flash on 22nd (JSB) may well have been the same as the one which lingered at Cresswell Pond from 23rd to 30th (NFO *et al.*).

The Cresswell Curlew Sandpiper by Jonathan Farooqi on 25th July.





**Stilt Sandpiper** *Calidris himantopus*

An adult was present at Cresswell Pond during 29th/30th at least (SR *et al.*).

**Temminck's Stint** *Calidris temminckii*

The adult present in late June at Derwent Reservoir was last seen on 5th (IFo). One was at Low Newton scrape on 14th (GPK).

**Sanderling** *Calidris alba*

The number at St Mary's increased from ten on 21st to 75 on 26th (SPP/MSH), 32 were near Chevington Burn on 20th, 30 at Ross Back Sands on 19th and 21 at Boulmer on 27th. Elsewhere, 16 were at Hauxley on 26th, 12 arrived from N at Holy Island on 20th and up to ten were in the Long Nanny area from 19th.

**Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*

A total of 42 flew S at Seaton Sluice Watch Tower during 13th to 23rd. By far the majority of records came from Cresswell Pond, including seven on 6th, 39 on 13th, and a peak of 230 on 23rd (SRB) before a reduction to 70+ on 27th. Budle Bay held 120 on 12th and 150+ on 26th (CGK). Both Castle Island and Low Newton had 15 on 31st, the most at Druridge Pools was 12 on 20th, at North Blyth 11 on 30th and eight or fewer occurred at another eight places at or near the coast. Inland, at least 13 were noted at Grindon Lough, including three juveniles on 12th, and two adults were at Derwent Reservoir on 1st.

**Little Stint** *Calidris minuta*

One arrived after heavy rain at Hoppen Kiln Flash on 13th and remained to 15th (GPK) and one was at Grindon Lough on 28th (SJH).

**White-rumped Sandpiper** *Calidris fuscicollis*

An adult was found at Cresswell Pond on 26th (TRC/MK/ADMc/TB *et al.*).

The Cresswell White-rumped Sandpiper

Tim Dean

26th July

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*

Some peak counts were as follows: seven at Derwent Reservoir on 12th and 31st (IFo), six at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 11th and 17th (SR), six at Castle Island on 30th (JPD), four in Budle Bay on 26th, four at Cresswell Pond on 26th and three at East Chevington on 30th. A further 16 localities had one or two at times.

A Common Sandpiper  
Upper Coquetdale by Alan Jack

**Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*

At Whittle Dene Reservoirs three were present on 1st, a notable eight on 26th and five on 29th (all SR). Four were at Hoppen Kiln Flash on 21st with three there on 24th (GPK). Two were noted occasionally at Backworth, Castle Island, Doddington, Gosforth Park NR and Haughton Strother GP and singles appeared at Bothal Pond, Branton GP, Cresswell Pond, Grindon Lough, Holywell Pond, West Hartford and West Stobswood Pool.





**Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*

A slight passage involved mainly singles. Early in the month near the coast these appeared at Hoppen Kiln Flash on 3rd, Hauxley NR on 4th/5th, Cresswell Pond on 6th and 8th and at Swallow Pond on 9th. Inland, Grindon Lough had one during 10th to 15th. Another was noted at Hoppen Kiln Flash on 13th and other singles were at Cresswell Pond from 20th and two there on 29th (TRD). Other singles were seen at Holy Island on 21st, West Hartford on 24th, at Castle Island and Lynemouth Flash on 30th and at Gosforth Park NR on 31st.

**Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*

Singles were reported from Hoppen Kiln Flash on 2nd, 16th and 23rd/24th (all GPK). One was at Druridge Pools on 8th/9th (CDB/TB), singles at Holywell Pond on 17th and 25th (both AC), one at Bothal Pond on 22nd (TF/JFa) and one at Big Waters on 25th (AJJ per GB).

**Redshank** *Tringa totanus*

The number at North Blyth increased from 199 on 20th to 243 on 30th (STH). Amble held 81 on 4th (PRM), Hauxley NR 75 on 20th (MSH) and 30 were in Budle Bay on 11th. Up to 15 were noted at Grindon Lough, 15 were in the Tweed Estuary on 9th, 14 at Cresswell Pond on 1st and ten or fewer at Cocklawburn, Derwent Reservoir, Newcastle Business Park, St Mary's and Whitley Bay.

**Woodcock** *Scolopax rusticola*

Two were at Winnows Hill (Slaley Forest) on 1st (ASH/TW/AJ/IK) and two at Blakehopeburnhaugh on 25th (TRD/JD).

**Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*

Generally, numbers rose as the month progressed, for example 30 at Druridge Pools on 15th (TRC) then a high of 40+ there on 30th (JPD). Other notable peaks in the last week or so were of 35 at Cresswell Pond on 24th (TB), 30 at Low Newton on 31st (TRD) and 28 at Derwent Reservoir on 31st (IFo). Around mid-month 18 were at Hoppen Kiln Flash on 11th, 17 at East Chevington on 21st and ten at Bothal Pond on 16th. Backworth had up to nine, Grindon Lough up to seven, Gosforth Park NR up to six and four or fewer appeared at Big Waters, Castle Island, Cramlington and Hauxley NR.



A Snipe  
Cresswell Pond  
5th July  
Janet Dean



**Collared Pratincole** *Glareola pratincola*

One found at Castle Island on 28th (Dave Dack *et al.*) at 15:30h showed quite well until about 19:00h.

This is the third County record and the first since one at Beadnell in 1983. The very first was at Holywell in 1966, the year when Bobby Moore lifted the World Cup.



The Collared Pratincole, seen by a lucky few at Castle Island on 26th July  
by Tim Dean

**Black-winged Pratincole** *Glareola nordmanni*

An adult was found at Holywell Pond Obelisk Flash on 7th (Alan Curry *et al.*).

At the time of writing it seems that details have yet to be submitted to NTBC regarding one found by a visitor to the County, Helen Mears, at Hauxley NR on 12th June. An account of the circumstances can be found on the *Birdguides* website.

These are the first County records. Remarkably, after 31 years without a record of any pratincole, two different species come along within weeks of each other!

**Pomarine Skua** *Stercorarius pomarinus*

An immature flew N at Newbiggin on 23rd (ASH).

**Arctic Skua** *Stercorarius parasiticus*

A total of eight (two N, 6 S) at Seaton Sluice Watch Tower is described as 'very low' for the period. Four flew S at Newbiggin on 21st (TRC) and singles were off Snab Point on 12th, in Druridge Bay on 20th and 26th and off St Mary's on 23rd, 24th and 26th.

**Great Skua** *Stercorarius skua*

There are five records of singles, all moving N: over Hauxley NR on 18th (JSB), at St Mary's on 19th (JBu0, Newbiggin on 21st (TRC) and at St Mary's (JPD) and Snab Point on 26th (JR).

**Auk** *sp*

At Seaton Sluice, modest movements of 40N per hour and 100S per hour were recorded on 8th and 9th respectively (SSWT).

**Puffin** *Fratercula arctica*

Between 8th-13th, movements totalling 30N and 7S were counted at Seaton Sluice (SSWT). Elsewhere, 60 were at Snab Point on 15th (TRD) and 25 were on the sea in small groups at East Chevington on 6th (TRD/JD). Two to three were noted at Newbiggin, Newton Point and St Mary's Island.

**Razorbill** *Alca torda*

Only a single record, comprising two at Snab Point on 15th (TRD).

**Guillemot** *Uria aalge*

Counts of 40 were made at Spital Bay (Berwick) on 2nd (MHu), 20 at Rockcliffe (Whitley Bay) on 13th (IJ) and ten at Berwick, North Shore from a WeBS survey on 11th (MHu). One to five were at three other localities.

**Bridled Tern** *Onychoprion anaethetus*

Following the re-appearance of this extremely rare visitor on Inner Farne last month, for the second successive year, the bird was again there this month on 1st. Thereafter, it was recorded daily up to 4th, usually at its favoured location on the rocks by the jetty. However, sightings of the bird became very spasmodic from 5th-8th, being seen only briefly on alternate days, with the last record coming four days later on 12th. (After spending two days, 9th-10th, in Lothian, the bird was recorded moving S, with sightings from County Durham and Cleveland on 13th and finally, an unconfirmed report from Norfolk on 19th).

Although the bird's sightings, as noted above, were reported comprehensively on *Birdguides* no records were submitted by members.

**Little Tern** *Sternula albifrons*

A very encouraging report was of 30 pairs at the Long Nanny colony on 1st (TRD per NT wardens). Elsewhere, two adults were at Cresswell Pond on 12th (ASH) and two moved S in Druridge Bay on 17th (SPP).

**Sandwich Tern** *Sterna sandvicensis*

At Seaton Sluice 300 per hour moved N on 8th and the following day 850 flew S in one hour in the early morning (SSWT). Impressive maximum gatherings totalling 780 were recorded on two days, 9th and 13th, at roosts in the River Tweed Estuary with 220 at nearby Berwick, Sandstell Point on 6th (MHu). Smaller concentrations of 80 and 50 were at Budle Point on 12th (CGK/GPK) and Cocklawburn on 10th (MHu) respectively. One to 15 were reported from around 12 other coastal localities, primarily the Druridge Bay area.

**Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*

Small numbers passed the watch point at Seaton Sluice throughout the month with daily maxima of 15N on 13th and 40S on 23rd (SSWT). Breeding was recorded at the Blyth Power Station staithe (one juvenile) (STH), Dudley, Shasun Pharma, where two broods were reported (LJM), Big Waters, where five broods were recorded but other predation possibly accounted for the loss of all (AJJ per GB), Swallow Pond with five pairs and two chicks noted on 9th (SPP) and Gosforth Park NR and adjacent pool where a maximum 50 birds included 18 juveniles (NHSN). One to ten were elsewhere at eight widespread coastal localities between St Mary's Island and the River Tweed Estuary and at ten inland sites.

**Roseate Tern** *Sterna dougallii*

At Amble on 4th at least five fed offshore (PRM) and four were present on the Farne Islands on 2nd (IF). One to two were also recorded at the Long Nanny, St Mary's Island and Seaton Sluice on various dates from 14th-23rd.

**Arctic Tern** *Sterna paradisaea*

Approximately 2,500 were counted at the Long Nanny colony on 1st and the wardens reported that day that around 2,400 pairs were present (TRD). Concentrations elsewhere were 260 in roosts at the River Tweed Estuary on 9th and 13th (MHu); two to three were noted at Budle Point, Cocklawburn, Newton Point and St Mary's Island.

**Kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla*

The maximum movement past Seaton Sluice was 125 in one hour on 17th, otherwise only small numbers were sighted there (SSWT). In excess of 400, including 160 juveniles were recorded at nests on the cliffs at Tynemouth Priory on 26th (SPP) and gatherings of ca.130 were in the River Tweed Estuary and at roost at Sandstell Point, Berwick on 6th and 9th (MHu). Records of one to five came from Blyth South Harbour, Cresswell Pond, Newton Point and Whitley Bay,

**Black-headed Gull** *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

Three-figure gatherings comprised 223 from a WeBS survey at Berwick North Shore on 11th (MHu), 206 on the River Wansbeck at Morpeth on 14th (DM), 135 at West Hartford on 11th (STH) and 106 at Arcot Pond on 26th (LJM). Elsewhere 30-90 frequented Holy Island causeway, Hauxley NWT, Killingworth Lake and the River Tyne (Elswick Wharf-Newcastle Business Park) with smaller counts of one to 30 from seven other localities.

**Little Gull** *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

Cresswell Pond was again the best location to see this species although the numbers had declined from a maximum of 26 last month to a maximum of 14 on 1st (NFO), falling to eight on 9th (TB), six on 11th (MSH) and only one or two towards the month end; only one adult was seen here, the majority being first-summer birds. One to two immatures and single adults were recorded elsewhere from Holywell Pond, Newbiggin, St Mary's Island and Seaton Sluice plus three adults flying N at St Mary's Island on 10th (JBu).

**Mediterranean Gull** *Larus melanocephalus*

The usual late summer build-up of numbers occurred at the favoured Newbiggin south beach with a maximum count of 22 on 20th (STH) which included a green-ringed bird 716, a French bird returning for its sixth successive autumn since 2009; six adults and four first-summers were also recorded there on 4th (STH). Cresswell Pond attracted one or two throughout the month including an adult on a number of dates and two second summers on 11th (MSH). St Mary's Island held two adults on 11th and single adults were present at Hauxley NWT and Holy Island on various dates.

**Common Gull** *Larus canus*

The first returning birds of late summer comprised eight at Berwick, North Shore on 5th (MHu) five at Budle Bay on 12th (CGK/GPK) and three at West Hartford on 16th (LJM). One to three were at two other sites.



**Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus graelsii*

The maximum recorded gatherings were 16 in a small colony at Blyth, Wimbourne Quay where juveniles were present on 14th (LJM), 13 on the River Tweed Estuary on 12th (MHu) and 12 at West Hartford on 13th (DM/STH/PJA). One to three were at seven other localities.

**Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus argenteus*

Two large concentrations were noted from WeBS surveys, comprising 586 on the River Tweed Estuary on 9th and 135 at nearby Berwick, North Shore on 11th (MHu). Successful breeding, from colonies of one or two pairs, was observed at Blyth Harbour, Blyth PV Technology Building, North Blyth staithes and Dudley (Shason Pharma) (all LJM). Elsewhere, counts of two to 16 came from Castle Island, Cresswell Pond, Holy Island (north shore), Killingworth Lake, Leazes Park, the River Tyne at Newcastle Business Park, Walbottle, West Hartford and Whitley Bay.

**Great Black-backed Gull** *Larus marinus*

The only significant count was 250, including 60% juveniles, at Budle Bay on 2nd (JMA). Apart from 11 on the River Tweed Estuary on 9th only one or two were recorded, at Berwick (North Shore), Castle Island, Cresswell Pond, Newbiggin and Whitley Bay (Rockcliffe).

**Rock Dove** *Columba livia*

A large gathering of 400 at Heddon Haughs Farm on 7th (SRB), 45 at Olivers Mill (Morpeth) on 14th (DM), 40 on staiths at R. Blyth estuary on 30th (STH) and two at Rockcliffe (Whitley Bay) on 13th (IJ).

**Stock Dove** *Columba oenas*

Present throughout the month at Cresswell Pond with a peak count of eight on 6th (TRB), four at Backworth on 24th (MSH), two at West Hartford on 27th and Alnwick Moor on 31st with singles at Jesmond Dene, Grindon Lough, Holywell Dene, Walbottle and West Hartford.

**Woodpigeon** *Columba palumbus*

High counts of 20 at Elwick and Fenham Mill on 2nd (JMA), five the peak in an Old Hartley garden and three juveniles in a Walbottle garden on 20th with one to two at Cresswell Pond, Holy Island and Low Newton.

**Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*

Three seen daily in an Old Hartley garden till 7th (RJP) and two the peak in a Walbottle garden on 6th (KR/LR).

**Barn Owl** *Tyto alba*

Breeding appeared good with two pairs nesting only 250m apart at Holy Island fledging three young making it the most productive season on record for the island (IK), a pair at Holywell Dene fledging three young seen daily till 7th and a pair at a confidential site in the south east with two fledged young on the same date (GB). The only multiple sightings were two at Cocklaw Walls on 23rd (TWi) with singles at Cawledge (Alnwick), Dinnington, Druridge Pools, Holywell Dene and Pond, Stanton and West Hartford on two dates with a road casualty at Stannington on 11th.

**Little Owl** *Athene noctua*

The pair at Shiremoor remained on show all month with young seen from 17th (CGK) with singles at West Stobswood Pool on 6th (MSH) and a juvenile calling at Dinnington on 21st and 24th (PCF).

**Tawny Owl** *Strix aluco*

Three juveniles called for food in a Stamfordham garden on 23rd although the adults were not seen during the month (EC). Two were at Gosforth Park NR and at Warren Mill Caravan Park nr (Bamburgh) on several dates (NHSN/CGK/GPK) with singles at Dinnington, Heddon Banks on three successive nights, Holywell Dene, North Shields and Woolsington.

**Long eared owl** *Asio otus*

An adult plus at least three well grown juveniles were at a confidential site in the south east of the county on 1st (GB) with an adult feeding a juvenile at East Chevington on 11th the adult having been seen on three dates prior to this once in altercation with juvenile Marsh Harrier (ADMc/IF). More than two were also at Slaley Forest on 1st (ASH *et al*).

**Nightjar** *Caprimulgus europaeus*

A survey in the dark by mountain bike at Slaley Forest ending on 4th recorded eight with at least seven churring males across the forest (JL). Singles were there on 1st (ASH *et al*) and near Ridsdale on 18th (IF).

**Swift** *Apus apus*

East Ord (Berwick) continued to be the hot spot as 76 fed in front of a rain shower on 7th (MHu) with 50 at Shiremoor on 17th (CGK), Alnwick on 25th (TB), Northumberlandia (Cramlington) on 26th (LJM), around 40 at Arcot Pond on 4th and 25 at Bothal Pond on 16th (PRM). Twenty were at Red Row and Southfield Green (Cramlington) with two to five at five other locations.

**Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*

Two were at Gosforth Park NR and adjacent pool during the month (NHSN) with one regularly at Haughton Strother NR (Humshaugh) (MR), Thrum Mill / Rothbury (JD) and Woolsington Ponds (SRB). Singles were also at Derwent Reservoir on 6th, Big Waters and Chollerford on 7th, Low Angerton (R Wansbeck) on 10th, Holywell Dene on 15th and Hauxley NWT on 17th.



A kingfisher at Rothbury  
Janet Dean on 3rd July

**Green Woodpecker** *Picus viridis*

One calling all month at Cragside (Rothbury) (TRD/JD), at Gosforth Park NR (NHSN) and at Rothley Lakes on 24th (TRD/JD).

**Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major*

Up to four were regularly in Holywell Dene and visiting a nearby Old Hartley garden (RJP) with three at Northumberlandia on 20th, two juveniles at Arcot Pond on 6th and two at Valley Park (all Cramlington area) on 1st (LJM/DM). Two were at Rowington Dene (Ashington) on 31st (DLo) with singles also at Barns Park & Southfield Green (Cramlington) Bothal Pond, Grindon Lough and the observers garden at Walbottle.

**Ring-necked Parakeet** *Psittacula krameri*

Four birds fed on berries at Ponteland Leisure Centre car park on 27th (CDB) with a single present there on 16th (PRM).

**Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*

Grindon Lough had two males, two females and four juveniles present on 12th, with a male, female and two juveniles there on 8th and two birds including a female there on 10th (PRM). The only other sightings involved three birds at Druridge Pools on 9th (TB) and three at Northumberlandia (Cramlington) on 19th (STH) and a female at Amble on 4th (PRM).

**Hobby** *Falco subbuteo*

An adult flushed and caught a juvenile Sand Martins *riparia riparia* out of a group from telephone wires at Ellington on 15th (TB).

**Peregrine** *Falco peregrinus*

Two birds were in Budle Bay on 16th (CGK/GPK) and observed on several dates thereafter. A single bird was at Holy Island on 21st (JL) and a juvenile presumably from the local nest site mobbed Herring Gulls *Larus argentatus* over the mouth of the Ouseburn (Newcastle) on 7th (IK).

**Magpie** *Pica pica*

A small gathering of 12 at Kingston Park on 14th (PCF), nine at Valley Park (Cramlington) on 2nd (DM) with up to four in gardens at Old Hartley and Walbottle (RJP/KR/LR).

**Jay** *Garrulus glandarius*

A monthly peak of five at Gosforth Park NR (NHSN), four at Linden Hall (Longhorsley) on 26th (NFO), two in a garden at Stamfordham on 13th noted as unusual (EC) with singles at Arcot Hall & Valley Park (Cramlington), Capheaton, Jesmond Dene and Morpeth.



**Jackdaw** *Corvus monedula*

An evening roost at Big Waters held 100 on 7th (GB), 14 the highest count for the month in a Walbottle garden (KR/LR) and six in an Old Hartley garden (RJP).

**Carrion Crow** *Corvus corone*

On 2nd 20 were at Elsdon and two at Low Newton (JMA) with an unusual report of an adult killing a well grown juvenile Lapwing and feeding it to its four offspring on the Budge fields (Druridge) (SPP).

**Raven** *Corvus corax*

A high count of 11 in Upper Coquetdale on 7th (JL), seven at Haltonlea Fell on 15th (SW), six at Otterburn Ranges on 3rd (JMA) with singles at Blakehopeburnhaugh, Doddington and Grindon Lough.

**Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus*

A family party was at Valley Park (Cramlington) on 11th (DM).

**Blue Tit** *Cyanistes caeruleus*

Nine, all juveniles were in the observer's garden at Walbottle on 20th (KR/LR).

**Great Tit** *Parus major*

Two juveniles and an adult were in the same garden at Walbottle on 20th (KR/LR).

**Coal Tit** *Periparus ater*

One to two in gardens at Old Hartley during the month and two including a juvenile at Walbottle on 13th (RJP/KR/LR).

A Sand Martin and a Swallow at Druridge Pools on 22nd July, both by Chris Barlow

**Willow Tit** *Poecile montanus*

A pair and three juveniles fed at Prestwick Carr on 13th (PCF) with two there on 23rd (SRB). Three were at Ellington on 19th (TB), two in an Old Hartley garden daily from 9th (RJP) and singles at Big Waters, Airy Holm Reservoir (nr Shotleyfield) and Linden Hall (Longhorsley).

**Marsh Tit** *Poecile palustris*

Just two reports of singles at Linden Hall (Longhorsley) on 6th (NFO) and Thrum Mill (Rothbury) on 14th (TRD/JD).

**Bearded Tit** *Panurus biarmicus*

Three males were at East Chevington on 2nd with two calling there on 11th (IF).

**Skylark** *Alauda arvensis*

A single report of two in Upper Coquetdale near Shillmoor on 6th (MPR).

**Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia*

A late evening gathering of 400+ preparing to roost in phragmites on 6th (MSH), 250 at Ellington on 7th (TB), eight in trees around hides at Druridge Pools on 22nd (CDB) and present at Newbiggin on 27th.

**Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*

From mid month a nightly roost in reed beds at Gosforth Park NR and adjacent pool held 1000-2000 birds (NHSN). More than 120 were at Backworth on 20th (CGK), 80 on a roof at East Matfen on 10th (SW), 75 including many juveniles at Northumberlandia (Cramlington) on 26th (LJM), 50 at Blakemoor Farm on 5th (JMA), 40 at Old Railway Line (Holywell Dene) on 27th (RJP) with 30 at East Chevington on 21st (IF) and six to ten at three other locations. Breeding was reported as good with nine nests containing 23 young at the Leisure Centre Ponteland on 11th, 11 fledged juveniles in trees around the hides at Druridge on 22nd (CDB), a pair and six juveniles at Newton Steads on 2nd, two pairs with nestlings at Exhibition Park (Newcastle) on 17th and many pairs with second clutches / broods at Holy Island. Light southerly passage was noted at Budle Point on 25th and Newbiggin on 27th (CGK/IJ/TRC).



**House Martin** *Delichon urbica*

Up to 12 were at Holywell Dene, many hunting over the Town Moor (Newcastle) on 23rd and 30th (DHWB), eight in the observers garden at Walbottle on 20th (KR/LR) and ten active nests at St Georges Park (Morpeth) on 1st (DM).

**Long-tailed Tit** *Aegithalos caudatus*

16 at Haughton Strother (Humshaugh) on 11th was the only sizeable gathering (MR). Three were noted at Valley Park (Cramlington) on 15th and one at Holywell Dene on 16th.

**Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita*

Five were singing at Valley Park (Cramlington) on 1st (DM), four were at Bellasis Bridge (Blagdon) on 2nd and three were singing at Linton Ponds on 4th. There were reports of two singing from Arcot Pond, Cresswell Hope, Linton Mill and Simonside Forest and singles at a further 17 localities.

**Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus*

This species appears to be less conspicuous than usual this year. Five at Arcot Pond on 16th was the highest count with three at Valley Park (Cramlington) and singles at a further seven localities.



A Willow Warbler  
Chris Barlow  
Druridge Pools on 22nd July

**Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*

At Valley Park (Cramlington) two birds were still in song and another was carrying food on 1st (DM). Two singing males were at Standingstone (Matfen) on 10th and singing males were also heard at Druridge Pools, Heaton Park, Leazes Park, Jesmond Dene and Matfen. Singles were also reported from a further six localities.

**Garden Warbler** *Sylvia borin*

An adult fed a juvenile at Linden Hall on 12th (NFO) and one was singing at Big Waters on 11th.

**Lesser Whitethroat** *Sylvia curruca blythi*

A singing male at Arcot Pond on 16th was the only report (PRM).

**Whitethroat** *Sylvia communis*

Nine at Prestwick Carr on 19th were mainly juveniles (PCF). A further two family parties (in addition to June) were at Arcot Pond on 6th and family parties or juveniles were also noted at Beacon Lane (Cramlington), Cocklawburn, East Moorhouses (Matfen) and Valley Park (Cramlington). Elsewhere three were singing at Spindlestone on 13th, two were at Bamburgh on 28th and singles were reported from a further five localities.





Two singing warblers. Top a Whitethroat at St. Mary's by Alan Jack and below a Grasshopper Warbler by Chris Barlow on 30th July

**Grasshopper Warbler** *Locustella naevia*

Well reported and still very vocal. Counts of three 'reeling' birds came from Grindon Lough, Prestwick Carr and Swallow Pond and two were at East Chevington. Single singing birds were also reported from Arcot Pond, Castle Island, Druridge Pools, Linhope Spout (Upper Breamish), Shillmoor (Upper Coquetdale), Spindleston and West Hartford.

**Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Four + were at Bamburgh on 28th (BRS). Up to three were heard singing at Cresswell Pond (JMA) and Grindon Lough (PRM) during the month and twos at Arcot Pond and St Mary's Wetland. Two juveniles were at Valley Park (Cramlington) on 1st and singles birds were reported from Druridge Pools, Newton Pool and West Hartford.

**Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Seven were noted at Gosforth Park NR during the month (NHSN) and four singing males plus a juvenile were at Ladyburn Lake on 15th (LJM). Single males were also heard at Killingworth Lake on 4th and at St Mary's Wetland on 16th.



**Great Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*

One was at Cresswell Pond on 4th June (ADMc).

**Nuthatch** *Sitta europaea*

One to two was reported from Arcot Hall GC, Cramlington (Northumberlandia), East Ord, Jesmond Dene, Morpeth, Rothbury and Wark (North Tyne).

**Treecreeper** *Certhia familiaris*

Two were at Morpeth on 11th and singles at Darras Hall, Grindon Lough, Rowlington Dene (Ashington) and Valley Park (Cramlington).

**Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes*

There were only three reports of birds from Jesmond Dene, Shillmoor and Walbottle.

**Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*

The important roost site at East Chevington held 2,000 on 2nd, rising to 6-7,000 by 7th (IF/ADMc). 1,000+ were at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 26th, 150 at Warkworth Lane on 5th, 100 on the Otterburn Ranges on 3rd and 80 at Southfield Green (Cramlington) on 13th. Ten to 20 were also reported from Fulhope (Morpeth), Holy Island, Holywell Dene and Walbottle.

**Dipper** *Cinclus cinclus*

One to two was reported from Blakehopeburnhaugh (juv), Jesmond Dene, Holywell Dene and Rothbury.

**Blackbird** *Turdus merula*

Five was the highest count from an observer's garden in Walbottle during the month (KR/LR).

**Song Thrush** *Turdus philomelos*

The only reports were from Leazes Park, Jesmond Dene and a Walbottle garden (juvenile).

**Mistle Thrush** *Turdus viscivorus*

Five were noted at Grindon Lough on 12th and one at Killingworth Lake on 4th (PRM).

**Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata*

A very successful breeding season was noted in a Stamfordham garden where a total of about ten comprised two pairs with fledged young (EC). Two family parties were also noted at Fontburn Reservoir on 24th and a family party of six was at Mootlaw Quarry (Ryal) on 27th. An adult was feeding a juvenile at Linden Hall on 22nd and a bird was carrying food near a regular nest site at Ridsdale on 14th; a juvenile at Great Whittington was watched catching butterflies during a National Butterfly Count on 31st. Two birds were at Windyhaugh on 3rd and singles were reported from Chollerford, Rothbury, Whittle Dene Reservoirs and Yeavinger.

**Robin** *Erithacus rubecula*

Noted in an Old Hartley garden and at Jesmond Dene.

**Redstart** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Family parties of at least four were reported from Matten (SW) and Stiddlehill Common (Ridsdale) on 10th (AJR). A young bird passing through a Woosington garden on 23rd was a garden first for the observer and a single was at Widehope on 7th.

**Whinchat** *Saxicola rubetra*

Two were reported from Cocklawburn on 17th and Widehope (Edlingham) on 7th, a male with young was near Shillmoor (Upper Coquetdale) on 6th and another single was at Cresswell Pond on 15th.

**Stonechat** *Saxicola rubicola*

A pair and four juveniles were noted at East Chevington on 5th (PCF) and a pair with three juveniles was inland at Widehope (Edlingham) on 7th (TRD/JD). Elsewhere singles were reported from Amble, Cresswell Pond, Druridge Pools, Linhope Spout (Upper Breamish), Makendon (Upper Coquetdale) and Spittal Cliffs (Berwick).

**Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe*

In the Coquet Valley a total of five were found between Bygate Hall and Windyhaugh on 3rd (JMA). At Cramlington (Northumberlandia) three were noted on 25th and two (including a juvenile) on 15th (STH). Singles were also reported from Low Newton on 31st, Mootlaw Quarry (Ryal) on 27th and Shillmoor on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Duncock** *Prunella modularis*

A family party of five were noted at a garden in Walbottle on 27th, where one of the juveniles unfortunately flew into a window and died (KR/LR). Four including two juveniles were at a garden in Kenton and three were in Holywell Dene.

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*

On the 5th around 350 were in a post-breeding flock feeding on the foreshore at Chare Ends, Holy Island (IK). Two to 12 were in gardens at Kenton and Walbottle and Holywell Dene.



**Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus*

45 were at Haughton Strother GP on 11th (MR) with one to 13 at eight other locations, including a third brood raised from a box at the observer's garden in Walbottle (KR/LR).

**Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava flavissima*

Well reported from Cresswell Pond throughout the month with a peak of 15 there on 31st (TB) including many juveniles. 12 were at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 17th (SR). One to two were reported from seven other locations, including Cramlington, Low Newton and Wark.



A Yellow Wagtail at Whittle Dene, by Tim Dean

**Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*

A family party of six was at Haughton Strother GP on 24th (MR) and four at the mouth of Holywell Dene on 22nd. Singles were reported from 12 other locations including juveniles at Budle Bay and Longhorsley.

**Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla alba yarrelli*

15 at Grindon Lough on 20th rose to 34 by the 28th (SJH). There were 29 at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 17th (SR) and ten at Northumberlandia on 26th. One to two were reported from six other sites.

**Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis*

A single at Blakehopeburnhaugh on 9th (JD) was the only report.

A Tree Pipit at Brynness  
6th July by Janet Dean

**Meadow Pipit** *Anthus prateriis*

At least 15 were at Northumberlandia on 27th (STH) and there were ten at the Snook, Holy Island and at Low Newton both on the 2nd (JMA), with two to three reported from Newbiggin and Upper Coquetdale during the month.

**Rock Pipit** *Anthus petrosus*

Only two reports this month: Two at Rockcliffe, Whitley Bay on 13th (IJ) and one at St Mary's on 16th.



**Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs*

Eight were noted in Holywell Dene (RJP) and four in a garden in Walbottle.

**Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Up to five were around Holywell Dene during the month (RJP) and five were also at a Walbottle garden on 6th where a juvenile was fed by adults (KR/LR). One to two were reported from six other widespread locations.

**Greenfinch** *Carduelis chloris*

Six were in a Walbottle garden on 20th (KR/LR) and four juveniles at Holywell Dene on 16th with a single there on several dates towards the end of the month.

**Linnet** *Linaria cannabina*

12 were reported from Cocklawburn on 7th (MHu) and one to four were reported from six coastal locations.

**Lesser Redpoll** *Acanthis cabaret*

One to eight were reported from Grindon Lough through the month with at least eight there on the 12th and 28th (PRM/SJH). One was seen at Longhorsely on 26th (NFO).

**Common Crossbill** *Loxia curvirostris*

Many pairs and a group of ca.20 were at the Border Forest, Kielder in July, including a few singing males (MD). Two were at Blakehopeburnhaugh on 9th and 26th (JD/TD) and at Windyhaugh on 3rd (JMA). One was reported from Widehope on 2nd and a juvenile at Frolic on 10th.

**Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*

30 were at Newton Links on 2nd (JMA), 13 at Prestwick Carr on 19th (PCF) and ten at Elsdon on 3rd. One to six were reported from nine other locations.



A Goldfinch at Cresswell by Alan Jack

**Siskin** *Spinus spinus*

Four were at Wark on 8th and two also there on 12th (PRM). Three at Spindleston on 29th included juveniles. Two were feeding on niger seed at a Rothbury garden throughout the month. A single was reported from Grindon Lough on 10th.

**Yellowhammer** *Emberiza citrinella*

Five were at Beacon Lane, Cramlington on 13th (DM). Two were reported from Newton Links and Linton Lane (JMA). Singles were at Linton Pond, Easington, Walwick Fell and Grindon Lough.

**Reed Bunting** *Emberiza Schoeniclus*

Five were reported from St Mary's Wetland on 16th (PRM) and from West Hartford on 13th (DM/STH/PJA). Four were at Gosforth Park NR and up to three at Arcot Pond. One to two were noted at Grindon Lough, Druridge Pools NR, Cramlington and Upper Coquetdale.



## Escapes

### Bar-headed Goose *Anser indicus*

A group of seven were at Derwent Reservoir on 1st (IFo). This follows last months sightings of a group of seven at Hauxley and Cresswell Pond last month so likely to be same birds involved.

Correction Note sighting on 18th June was at Cresswell Pond not Hauxley.

## BULLETIN COMPILATION AND PRODUCTION

This bulletin was compiled by Graeme Bowman (Mute Swan to Ruddy Duck), Lindsay McDougall (Red Grouse to Black-necked Grebe), Trevor Blake (Honey-buzzard to Crane), Steve Holliday (Avocet to Godwit) Ian Forsyth (Turnstone to Skua), Eddie Crabtree (Puffin to Great Black-backed Gull), Tim Dean (Escapes, Hybrids and Unknown Origin, List of Contributors, Highlights), Peter Fletcher (Feral Pigeon to Red-rumped Swallow), Mike Richardson (Cetti's Warbler to Pied Flycatcher), James Littlewood (Duncock to Corn Bunting), Dan Turner (WeBS Coastal Counts) and Steve Holliday (WeBS Inland Counts).

Thanks to David Sanders of NNBC for providing data.

Proof reading was by Mike Smith.

Edited by Steve Barrett [NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com](mailto:NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com)

Mail distribution by Paul Stewart.

## RECORD SUBMISSION

Please email [ntbcorg@gmail.com](mailto:ntbcorg@gmail.com) for a copy of the standard spreadsheet and other details.

Location names and grid references: The use of standard location names and the include grid references as this greatly increases the value of records in subsequent analyses. A 1km square grid reference is the ideal e.g. NY8067 for Grindon Lough, but 2km square references (tetrads) are also acceptable e.g. NY86D in this case. A list of localities and their tetrad grid references (tetrad/Locality List) can be downloaded from the 'Resources & Downloads' section of the Club website at <http://www.ntbc.org.uk> – the use of these names, wherever possible, would be highly appreciated.

Could club members ensure they to submit records direct to NTBC rather than just Birdtrack. There may be an assumption by some members this happens automatically. We do not want to miss records.

## LATE RECORDS – AN APPEAL

There have been numbers of late records for BIN 2013. The great majority of records are received early in the month following the sighting and such records are used in the monthly bulletin and form the basis upon which the BIN is written. It is a thankless task altering species accounts well after the BIN year has finished because records are received late, in some cases records are 15 months old.

Please submit records as soon practical. This will save a lot of headaches and make the publication date of BIN earlier to the benefit of all.

## PHOTOGRAPHS AND ILLUSTRATIONS

Please keep submitting your articles, photographs, sketches and illustrations for the bulletin. Thanks again to those who have supplied the excellent photographs. Please send to Steve Barrett at [NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com](mailto:NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com)

It is preferable if you re-size your photos before sending and a suggested size is 640 x 480 pixels. Please ensure you include the following information with your submissions: name, species, date taken, locality.

Photographs will not be used elsewhere without the photographer's permission.

## MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Membership costs £30 per year. For membership enquiries please contact [ntbc@jobentley.plus.com](mailto:ntbc@jobentley.plus.com)

## NTBC WEB SITE

The Club website is an excellent resource for all interested in birds in the north-east. There are numerous interesting sections, including a photograph gallery, site information and trip reports together with extensive reference information for birding in our area.

Paul buskin manages the website and can be contacted at [paul@buskin.co.uk](mailto:paul@buskin.co.uk)

## NTBC SIGHTINGS PAGE

The Sightings Page contains current reports by members. Access is from the NTBC website and an email notification is available for new postings.

Members need to submit a request to be added to the website, specifying the email address they wish to post from before they can submit sightings to [ntbcorg@gmail.com](mailto:ntbcorg@gmail.com)

## BULLETIN WRITERS

We need a writer for the Duncock to Buntings section of the Bulletin. Why not give it a try?

### ATLAS UPDATE

NTBC has recently been awarded a grant of £29,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund towards its "Celebrating Northumberland's Bird Life" project.

In brief, this project will use data provided by club members to publish a county atlas, which will be written and illustrated by local birdwatchers. A series of public events and targeted engagement sessions will support the atlas as a gateway into the study and enjoyment of local bird life.

This funding will ensure the publication will be of the highest possible quality and that we can make copies available to local schools. In addition, the publication costs will be kept as low as possible, thereby making it accessible to a wider than normal audience. Species sponsorship, as match funding, has been vital in achieving this.

In addition the funding will support a range of public events, to be delivered by volunteers and aimed at encouraging more people to enjoy watching birds, and making it easier for people to know where to go and what they are looking at. This will generate more information, thus helping with bird conservation in the county. Any data generated will also be shared with ERIC (NE), our regional records centre. Support has also been secured from Northumberland Wildlife Trust, who will assist with delivery of the education programme.

Following discussions with a range of potential partners, including BTO, NTBC appointed Consilience Design of Whitley Bay to design and publish the publication. An atlas committee has been established to co-ordinate this.

Progress is very good;

- 90% of species accounts have now been drafted (thanks to all authors). Some editing will be required to ensure these fit within the available space.
- A good range of high (print) quality photographs have been secured (anyone got a Quail?) but additional submissions are welcome.
- Species maps have been designed and agreed, although minor amendments are required. For most species a set of four maps will be included.
- Introductory sections have been completed.
- Principle funding has been secured from HLF
- Design principles have been established

A publication date is yet to be confirmed.

### ATLAS HELP NEEDED

We are looking for help with some of the events and if anyone is able to volunteer to run or organise these please contact Steve Lowe [zappa99@live.co.uk](mailto:zappa99@live.co.uk) or 07941 734736 for more details;

- Introduction to bird watching
- Where to watch birds
- Introduction to bird photography
- Dawn chorus event
- Bird art
- Guide in the hide – drop in events at local bird sites with experts
- Small guided walk in your favourite patch
- Birds through the window – One to two hours chatting to residents in care homes about garden birds

All these should be fun to be involved in and most will require booking so numbers are manageable.

### NORTH EAST CONFERENCE FOR WILDLIFE RECORDING

The annual conference will be held on 11th October at the Hancock Museum. Details and a booking form are attached to this bulletin.





# Northumberland and Tyneside Bird Club

Registered Charity No. 517641

<http://www.ntbc.org.uk/>

**Bulletin 2014 No 8**

**MONTHLY SUMMARY – AUGUST**

**16th October 2014**



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A fine drake Ruddy Duck on 3rd August by Tim Dean  
Will this be the last ever record in our area?

## CLASSIFIED LIST HIGHLIGHTSHIGHLIGHTS

Egyptian Goose	Single at Cresswell Pond on 5th.
Ruddy Duck	A fine male at Linton and Bothal Ponds.
Cory's Shearwater	Single past Newbiggin on 20th.
Great Shearwater	Singles past Newbiggin on 19th and St Mary's on 20th.
Storm-petrel	Two trapped and ringed at Hadston Carrs on 4th.
Bittern	Single still summering at Gosforth Park.
Little Egret	New record county total of 14 at Budle Bay on 9th.
Spoonbill	Two present in Druridge Bay up to 7th.
Stilt Sandpiper	Last month's bird proved a long stayer with sightings up to 14th.
Temminck's Stint	Single on Holy Island on 9th.
Pectoral Sandpiper	One at North Charlton Mires.
Long-tailed Skua	Adult N at Seaton Sluice on 25th.
Caspian Gull	Second county record with a Polish-ringed bird at Amble Harbour from 6th.
Wryneck	Single on Holy Island on 31st.
Hobby	Adult at Druridge Pools on 2nd.
Citrine Wagtail	One at Grindon Lough on 9th

## FIELD TRIPS

Sunday Oct 19th, **Holy Island**

Any members who are interested in the above field trip please email Steve Anderson [seaswan@btinternet.com](mailto:seaswan@btinternet.com)



## INDOOR MEETINGS

NTBC indoor meetings are held at Northern Rugby Club, McCracken Park, Great North Road, Newcastle, NE3 2DT starting at 7.00pm and generally finish between 9.00pm-9.30pm.

The next meeting of the 2014-2015 season is on 13th November

### Science on Swan Lake

#### 50 years of WWT's Berwick Swan Research and a year in the life of a Whooper Swan researcher.

Kane Brides WWT Species Conservation Scientist

## CLASSIFIED LIST

The following account consists of unchecked reports. The species/subspecies marked \* require descriptions.

A complete list of all sightings that need notes is included in the NTBC website [www.ntbc.org.uk](http://www.ntbc.org.uk) under the County Records Committee section and in Birds in Northumbria 2012 page 236.

The Inland and Coastal Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) tables are at the rear of the bulletin. These contain counts additional to those in the Classified List.

### Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

A large concentration of 360 was at the Tweed Estuary on 7th (MHu), 101 were at QEII CP Lake on 15th (KWY), and 71 at Killingworth Lake on 10th (LJM). Counts of five to nine came from Bothal and Linton Ponds, Castle Island (including brood of four young), Gosforth Park NR and Hauxley Reserve (including brood of six young).

### Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

One was in the Beal Point-Longbridge End area of Lindisfarne NNR between 3rd-11th (SJH/SR/AH).

### Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

One, first noted in July, was at Haughton Strother GP until 20th (MR).

### goose (sp.)

A large goose species was again at Hauxley Reserve, on 14th and 16th (CDB/HRS).

### Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

Nine flew N at East Ord on 6th (MHu). Peak counts were 362 at Hauxley Reserve on 16th (CDB), 326 at Airy Holm Reservoir on 10th (HRS), 140 at Bradford Kaims on 23rd (CGK/GPK), and 110-137 at Backworth (CGK/AJ), Bothal (TF/JFa) and Linton (CDH) Ponds, Beal Point (Lindisfarne; SJH), New Water Haugh (River Tweed; MHu), 'Northumberlandia' (Cramlington; STH), Stocksfield (PRM), and the Tweed Estuary (MHu), while 54-98 were at Budle Bay, Haggerston Castle, Haughton Strother GP.

### Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

Haughton Strother GP attracted 505 on 18th (MR), a peak of 345 was at Hauxley Reserve on 16th (CDB), 211 were at Bothal Pond on 15th (TD), 102-125 at Derwent Reservoir (IFo), 102 at Grindon Lough (SJH), and Linton Ponds (CDH), and 60-90 at Holywell Pond, New Water Haugh (River Tweed) and Stocksfield. Counts often to 30 also came from Amble Braid, Roddam Quarry Pond and the Tweed Estuary.

### Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*

A summering individual of the pale-bellied *hrota* race was noted regularly at Lindisfarne NNR during the month (IK).

### Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

An adult was at Cresswell Pond on 5th (AA/CDB).

### Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

A total of 14 flew N at St Mary's between 2nd-20th, including a flock of 12 on 20th (JPD), and a total of seven flew N and five S at Seaton Sluice between 1st-19th (SSWT). Peak counts were 15 at Cresswell Pond on 3rd (IJ), 13 (mostly juveniles) at Castle Island on 21st (GB), 12 (11 juveniles) at Hauxley Reserve on 16th (CDB), and six to eight at Beal Point (Lindisfarne NNR) and Elswick. Three to four were at Amble Braid and Yarrow Slake, and one to two at Bell's Pond, Druridge Pools, Gosforth Park NR and Howdon.

### Mandarin *Aix galericulata*

Six females/juveniles flew onto the River North Tyne at Wark on 6th but later flew off N (PRM). At Bakethin Reservoir on 1st, single females were noted with six and five juveniles respectively (MD).

### Wigeon *Anas penelope*

Light coastal passage involved 34 N at Meadow Haven (Berwick) on 29th (MHu), a total of five N and nine S at Newbiggin between 26th-28th (GB/TF/JFa), and five N at Seaton Sluice between 20th-26th (SSWT). Numbers at Lindisfarne NNR built up rapidly towards the end of the month, peaking at 500 (IK). At Grindon Lough, 78 on 13th increased to a peak of 139 on 26th (SJH), 23 were at Derwent Reservoir on 17th (MHu), and 20 at East Chevington on 28th (TRD/JD). Three to five were at Budle Bay, Cresswell Pond, Gosforth Park NR and Hauxley Reserve, and one to two at Arcot and Bothal Ponds, and Big Waters.

**Gadwall** *Anas strepera*

Peak gatherings were 63 at Hauxley Reserve on 11th (TF/JFa), 23 at Arcot Pond on 27th (STH), 14 at Big Waters on 25th (GB), 14 at Linton Ponds on 23rd (CDH), five to eight at Bothal Pond (TF/JFa) and Druridge Pools (IJ), and three to four at Cresswell Pond and Longhirst Flash. One to two were also at Gosforth Park NR and Marden Quarry.



A Gadwall on 15th August by Tim Dean

**Teal** *Anas crecca*

A total of 526 flew N and 21 S at St Mary's between 2nd-27th (JPD/MSH), and an above-average 456 flew N and 13 S at Seaton Sluice, including 300 N on 26th (SSWT), and a total of 100+ flew N at Newbiggin between 19th-26th (GB/TF/JFa). Peak gatherings were 125 at Fenham Flats on 24th (ASJ), 34 at Grindon Lough on 13th increasing to 84 on 26th (SJH), 81 at Derwent Reservoir on 23rd (IFo), 66-72 at Hoppen Kiln Flash (CGK/GPK) and West Stobswood Pool (MSH), and 48 at Arcot Pond. Counts of ten to 25 also came from Arcot, Bothal, Holywell, Middle Ord and Swallow Ponds, Derwent Reservoir, Gosforth Park NR, Hauxley Reserve, and Mootlaw Quarry, while one to eight were also at Big Waters, Cresswell and Linton Ponds, Druridge Pools, Howdon and Tynemouth. Four adults and five fledged juveniles were at Bakethin Reservoir on 1st (MD).

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*

Highest counts were 218 at Druridge Pools on 15th (KWY), 192 at Grindon Lough on 24th (SJH), 146 at Derwent Reservoir on 12th (IFo), 140 at Bothal Pond on 15th (TD), 105 at Whittle Dene Reservoirs (SR), and 53-91 at Airy Holm Reservoir, Arcot Pond, East Chevington, Gosforth Park NR, Haughton Strother GP and Newcastle Exhibition Park. Counts of 38-46 came from Duke's and Linton Ponds, Hauxley Reserve and Longhirst Flash. Further breeding data were as follows (additional to previous months unless otherwise stated):

Locality	No. of broods	No. of young	Observer/notes
Big Waters	2	16 (9,7)	GB. Half-grown broods on 6th
Hauxley Reserve	1	7	HRS. On 14th. New brood?
Haughton Strother GP	1	6	MR. Brings total for season to 6 broods (38 young)

**Pintail** *Anas acuta*

On 31st, two were at Low Newton (CB) and one at East Chevington (TF/JFa).

**Garganey** *Anas querquedula*

Singles were at Arcot Pond on 30th (STH), Castle Island on 9th (GB/LAR) and Haughton Strother GP all month (first noted in July; MR).

**Shoveler** *Anas clypeata*

Singles flew N at St Mary's on 2nd (JPD) and Newbiggin on 26th (TF/JFa). Peak counts were 11 at Cresswell Pond on 3rd (IRD), seven at Swallow Pond on 6th (JPD), and three at Cresswell Pond on 3rd (IJ) and Hauxley Reserve on 16th and 23rd (CDB/GB). One to two were also at Big Waters, Druridge Pools, Longhirst Flash, Monks' House Pool and Woodhorn Flashes on occasional dates. A female accompanied four well-grown juveniles at Druridge Pools on 18th (TRD/JD).



**Pochard** *Aythya ferina*

Small numbers involved peaks of five at Bothal Pond on 13th and 17th (TF/JFa/IRD), five at Cresswell Pond on 21st (IRD), and five at Swallow Pond on 6th (JPD). Singles were also at Big Waters and Hauxley Reserve.

**Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula*

Two flew N at St Mary's on 27th (JPD). Largest counts were 56 at Killingworth Lake on 20th (LJM), 55 at Bothal Pond on 17th (TF/JFa), 49 (including broods) at Haughton Strother GP on 2nd (MR), 40 at Druridge Pools (TD), 20-26 at Hauxley Reserve, Linton Ponds and West Stobswood Pool, and 14-17 at Arcot and Cresswell Ponds, Newcastle Exhibition Park and Whittle Dene Reservoirs. One to eight were also at Airy Holm Reservoir, Bywell Haughs, Grindon Lough, and Woodhorn Flashes, while one was the Tweed Estuary on 31st (MHu). Further breeding data were as follows (additional to previous months unless otherwise stated):

Locality	No. of broods	No. of young	Observer/notes
Druridge Pools	1	5	TD. 1-2 week old brood noted on 2nd
Lynemouth	1	5	GB. Half-grown young on Lyne Burn on 9th
Woodhorn Flashes	1	4	GB. On 16th
Killingworth Lake	1	4	LJM. New brood on 10th
Linton Ponds	1	4	IRD. On 21st. As July?



A drake Ruddy Duck which displayed to this Tufted female on 3rd August  
An undisclosed location in the south-east.  
Photograph by Tim Dean

**Scaup** *Aythya marila*

Two were at Cresswell Pond on 13th (JD), and singles there regularly between 3rd-22nd (CDB/TRD/IJ *et al.*). One was also at Hauxley Reserve on 16th (CDB).

**Eider** *Somateria mollissima*

500 were at The Beacons (Lindisfarne NNR) on 16th (IK). Much smaller numbers elsewhere involved 58 at Amble on 14th (PRM), 45 off Seaton Sluice on 21st (SSWT), and 16-25 at Berwick North Shore, Meadow Haven and Tynemouth. One to two were also at the Tweed Estuary and Whitley Bay.

**Long-tailed Duck** *Clangula hyemalis*

One, a first-summer drake, last noted at Derwent Reservoir in July, was present from 19th until at least 25th (IFo).

**Common Scoter** *Melanitta nigra*

Coastal movement involved an above-average total of 498 N and 153 S at Seaton Sluice, including 219 N on 1st and 220 N and 130 S on 26th (SSWT), a total of 393 at St Mary's between 2nd-27th (JPD), and 68 N at Newbiggin between 19th-28th (GB/TF/JFa). Few were noted offshore, with 228 at Cocklawburn on 7th (MHu), 36 at Cheswick Black Rocks on 15th (MHu), and 30 at Cresswell on 3rd (TRD/JD).

**Velvet Scoter** *Melanitta fusca*

Singles flew N at Hauxley on 15th (KWY) and Seaton Sluice (SSWT) and St Mary's (JBU) on 18th, and one moved S Tynemouth on 24th (SPP). Two were at Cheswick Black Rocks on 15th (MHu) and one at Stag Rocks on 18th (GPK).

**Goldeneye** *Bucephala clangula*

Three were at Cresswell Pond on 2nd-3rd (IRD/TD/IJ *et al.*), and one to two on various dates between 4th-31st (TRD/JD *et al.*). Singles were also at Bothal Pond (female) on 24th (TD), Budle Bay (juvenile) all month (GPK), Castle Island on 21st (GB), and Cocklawburn (a summering, injured female) on 7th (MHu).

**Red-breasted Merganser** *Mergus serrator*

Four in the Beal Sands-Black Law area on 9th was the sole report (SJH).

**Goosander** *Mergus merganser*

Single flocks of 15 flew N at Seaton Sluice on 1st and again on 13th (SSWT), four flew N at Newton on 31st (CB), and one N at St Mary's on 18th (CGK/AJ). Large numbers were again present in the north of the county, with peaks of 340 at a high tide roost Sandstell Point, Spittal on 18th (MHu), 156 at Berwick North Shore on 10th (MHu), 135 at the Tweed Estuary on 7th (MHu), 120 (juveniles) at Holy Island all month (IK), and 13 at Budle Bay (ASJ). Elsewhere, 13 were at Derwent Reservoir (IFo), five to nine at Amble, the Blyth and Coquet Estuaries and Seahouses Harbour. Singles were also at East Chevington, Newbiggin and Tynemouth.

**Ruddy Duck** *Oxyura jamaicensis*

A drake was Bothal Pond on 18th (TF/JFa) and a confidential site in the south east on 3rd and 7th (CDB/IJ). It was noted displaying to a female Tufted Duck and her brood of six half-grown young at the latter site on 3rd (TRD/JD).

**Red-legged Partridge** *Alectoris rufa*

A high count of 57 was made at Bolton (Whittingham) on 28th (AH). Ten were at a bird feeder near Greenhaugh on 13th (MD) and ten flew across the A1 at Charlton on 24th (GB). A single was at Big Waters on 25th.

**Red Grouse** *Lagopus lagopus*

18 were on Hedgehope on 22nd (IRD). At Featherwood 13 fed in heather on 17th (JR). Eight were in the Harthope Valley on 16th (JD), six on Simonside on 9th and four on Addycombe Moor (Rothbury) on 25th.

**Grey Partridge** *Perdix perdix*

Peak counts were 12 at Charlton Mires on 31st (AH), ten at Waren Mill Caravan Park (Bamburgh) on 22nd (CGK/GPK) and nine (seven juveniles) at Low Horton (Blyth) on 29th (LJM). One to four were noted at Boulmer, Fenham-le-Moor, Hareshaw Head, Rowley Burn and Warkworth Gut.

**Pheasant** *Phasianus colchicus*

A female was seen accompanying six juveniles at Bolton on 7th (JMA). A pair with four young was in a Walbottle garden on 17th (KR/LR). Two were in Holywell Dene on 31st.

**Red-throated Diver** *Gavia stellata*

Only light passage was noted during the month. At Seaton Sluice four flew N from 18th- 26th (SSWT). Three flew S in 1 hour 15 minutes at Newbiggin on 21st, where two flew N in 2 hours 30 minutes on 19th (GB). Two also flew S at Newbiggin on 19th (TF/JFa). Singles flew N at Newbiggin and St Mary's Island on 20th and at St Mary's Island on 28th. Singles were noted at Druridge on 28th and Buston Links on 30th.

**Fulmar** *Fulmarus glacialis*

Moderate passage was noted mid-month with 115 N in two hours at Seaton Sluice on 19th (SSWT), 80/h flew N at Berwick Pier on 18th (MHu) when 55 flew N in 1 hour 30 minutes at Snab Point (JR) and 14 flew N at St Mary's Island on 19th (MSH). A count of 35 in Cove's Bay (Holy Island) on 14th included ten downy chicks still in nests (IK). Other breeding records were four adults and three chicks in nests at Snab Point on 19th (ADMc) and up to 13 adults and a juvenile at Rockcliffe on 17th (IJ). Elsewhere one to two were noted at Berwick North Shore, Cresswell and Druridge.

**\*Cory's Shearwater** *Puffinus borealis*

On 20th one was seen flying N at St Mary's Island (JPD/MPF/AWS) and Newbiggin (PHH). On this date a probable was also seen flying N at St Mary's Island (JPD/MPF/AWS).

**\*Great Shearwater** *Puffinus gravis*

On 19th one gave incredible views as it flew N close inshore at Newbiggin (TF/JFa) and was seen later at Snab Point (ADMc/BB/SB/HG). Another flew N at St Mary's Island on 20th (JBU/DH/BB *et al.*).



**Sooty Shearwater** *Puffinus griseus*

Very few were noted during the month with a maximum count of four N at Seaton Sluice from 19th-25th, well below the August average (SSWT). Two flew N in five hours at Newbiggin on 19th (TF/JFa). At Newbiggin singles also flew N on 19th/21st/26th (GB), 20th (PHH) and 26th (TF/JFa). Other singles seen flying N were at Tynemouth on 18th (CB) and St Mary's Island on 20th (JPD/MPF/AWS).

**Manx Shearwater** *Puffinus puffinus*

Moderate N passage occurred during the month. At St Mary's Island 557 were noted in 39 hours 30 minutes of sea-watching with a peak of 326 on 20th (JPD/MPF/AWS/MSH/CGK) and at Seaton Sluice 461 flew N and 16 S during the month with peak counts of 268 from 18th-20th and 99 on 23rd (SSWT). On 19th 205 flew N in five hours at Newbiggin (TF/JFa), where 50 were feeding offshore on that date (GB) whilst at Annstead 89 were noted on 22nd (CGK/GPK). On 19th 40 flew past Cullercoats in 2 hours 30 minutes (CGK/AJ). At Snab Point 12 flew N on 18th and five to eight were noted on two further dates at Newbiggin and Seaton Sluice.

**Storm Petrel** *Hydrobates pelagicus*

On 4th at Hadston Carrs two were trapped and ringed and a further two were seen (HRS).

**Gannet** *Morus bassanus*

The largest movements were 950/h N at Berwick Pier on 18th (MHu), when 475 flew N in 8 hours at Seaton Sluice (SSWT), 200 N in 1 hour at Seaton Sluice on 23rd (SSWT) and 109 N in 1 hour 30 minutes at Snab Point on 18th (JR). 27 were noted at Rockcliffe (Whitley Bay) on 9th with four to 11 there on four further dates (IJ). At Seaton Sluice on 11th, 15 were feeding close inshore (DLo). One to four were noted at Boulmer, Cresswell, Druridge and Stag Rocks.

**Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

At Seaton Sluice 18 flew N and 55 S on 14th and 48 N and 23 S on 18th (SSWT). The peak counts were 138 at Blyth Harbour on 28th (STH), 59 at Amble on 14th (PRM), 56 at Derwent Reservoir on 31st (JL), 48 at Sandstell Point (Berwick) on 18th (MHu), 42 in the Blyth Estuary on 14th (STH) and 34 in the Longbridge End-Beal Point area on 9th (SJH). In the Berwick area 30 were at Meadow Haven on 29th and 23 at North Shore on 10th (MHu). 30 were at North Shields Fish Quay on 14th (JMA). On 4th 22 were at East Chevington (STH/IFo), 19 were at Castle Island on 21st (GB), 13 at Bakethin Reservoir on 22nd (MD), 11 in the Tweed Estuary on 7th (MHu) and ten at Rockcliffe (Whitley Bay) on 9th (IJ). Two to eight were at Big Waters, Bothal Pond, Cresswell Pond and Hauxley. Two juvenile/first winter *sinensis* race birds were in Blyth South Harbour on 12th (MSH).

**Shag** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

Three flew N and seven S at Seaton Sluice from 10th-19th (SSWT). In the Berwick area 22 roosted at Meadow Haven on 29th and 14 at Sandstell Point on 18th (MHu). Ten were at Stag Rocks on 31st (TRD/JD). Three were at Amble and Berwick North Shore.

**Bittern** *Botaurus stellaris*

One was regularly noted during the month at Gosforth Park NR (NHSN). One was also at East Chevington North Pool on 1st (JSB).

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*

The species was well reported during the month with 66 reports being received. Additionally the first successful breeding in the county was reported of a pair fledging two young at Druridge Pools. Three flew N at St Mary's Island on 13th (JPD) and singles flew N at Seaton Sluice and Amble Harbour on 13th (SSWT/JPD), and S at St Mary's Island on 22nd (JBU). In the Lindisfarne NNR area the peak counts were 14 in Budle Bay on 9th (CGK), probably 12 in the Beal-Longridge End area on 31st (ADM) with up to ten noted on six further dates. Four were at Warkworth Gut on 17th/23rd (NFO), Yarrow Slake (Tweed Estuary) on 25th (BWG) and Wansbeck Estuary on 28th (GB). At Cresswell Pond three were noted on 5th/15th/22nd (MSH/TRD/JD) with one to two there on 14 further dates. One to two were noted at Amble Braid, Arcot Pond, Blyth Estuary, Castle Island, Druridge Pools, Foxton Bends, Holywell Dene Long Nanny, Monks' House Pool, Warkworth Weir and West Stobswood Pool.

One of the Cresswell Pond Little Egrets  
by John Littleton  
28th August

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*

The peak counts were 32 in the Tweed Estuary on 7th (MHu), 24 at Yarrow Slake (Tweed Estuary) on 25th (BWG), 18 at Howdon Wetland on 11th (CB), ten in the Coquet Estuary on 14th (MN) and nine at Hauxley NR on 16th (CDB). Six were in

the Blyth Estuary on 28th (STH), five roosted at Crooked Lonnen (Holy Island) on 14th (IK) and four were at Cresswell Pond on 3rd (IJ). One to three were noted at the Aln Estuary, Berwick North Shore, East Cramlington Pond, Hethpool, Holywell Dene, Humbleton and Wark.

#### **Spoonbill** *Platalea leucorodia*

Two adults were at Cresswell Pond on 1st/2nd (AA/MSH/TD) and at Druridge Pools on 7th (CDB).

#### **Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Peak counts were 14 at Hauxley NR on 14th (HRS) and Big Waters on 29th (GB), 12 at Arcot Pond on 10th (LJM) and 11 at Druridge Pools on 9th (TRD/JD), Linton Ponds on 23rd (CDH) and Airy Holm Reservoir (Shotleyfield), a new site record count, on 24th (IFo) and nine at Bothal Pond on 26th (TF/JFa). Four were at Capheaton Lake on 15th, East Chevington on 28th and Monk's House Pool on 25th. Three were at Grindon Lough and one to two at Derwent Reservoir, Killingworth Lake, Marden Quarry and Middle Ord Pond (Berwick). Additional breeding records are tabulated below:

Location	No. of broods	No. of young	Observer/Comments
Haughton Strother GP	4 (2 pairs)	9	MR summary for year
Bothal Pond	2	5	TD on 15th
Duke's Pond Wallsend	2	4	JPD on 25th
Swallow Pond	2	3	JPD on 5th
Linton Ponds	2	3	IRD on 21st
Arcot Pond	1	4	LJM on 10th
Laverock Hall Farm Pond Blyth	1	3	LJM on 18th
Big Waters	1	2	GB on 6th
Longhirst Flash	1	1	TD on 15th

#### **Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus*

The peak count was 16 at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 8th (SR). Six adults were at Derwent Reservoir on 10th (IFo) and the family party reported previously remained throughout the month at Haughton Strother GP (MR). Two adults and two juveniles were at East Chevington on 15th (TRD). Three birds were at Branton GP on 13th (JD). A pair nested and laid three eggs at Druridge Pools but the nest was either predated or abandoned (Many observers). An adult and a juvenile were seen here on 18th (TRD). Singles were noted at Airy Holm Reservoir, Bothal Pond, Cresswell Pond and Holy Island. Additional breeding records are tabulated below:

Location	No. of broods	No. of young	Observer/Comments
Derwent Reservoir	1	3	IFo on 10th



An action photograph  
A Great Crested Grebe in the act of egg laying  
at Druridge Pools by Chris Barlow

#### **Black-necked Grebe** *Podiceps nigricollis*

A further brood of two tiny young was noted at a regular breeding location in South East Northumberland on 3rd, where two adults and two juveniles were still present on 24th. A juvenile was at West Stobswood Pool on 22nd (MSH).

#### **Red Kite** *Milvus milvus*

Two birds were soaring together at Low Waskerley on 25th (IFo). Single birds were noted soaring West of Cresswell Pond on 1st (ADM), Low Waskerley on 8th and at Derwent Reservoir on 13th and 14th (IFo).



**Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*

Two juveniles were at Druridge Pools on 4th (CDB) and a single juvenile there on 5th (MSH). Other single birds were at East Chevington on 8th (IF), West Hartford on 18th (LJM per JM), Cresswell Pond on 22nd (TRD/JD), East Chevington on 27th (IF), Corbridge on 30th (MR) and at Middle Ord Pond (Berwick) on 31st (MHu).

**Goshawk** *Accipiter gentilis*

A Juvenile female was in the Border Forest on 15th (MD); singles were in the Harthope Valley on 16th (JD), Wooler Common on 19th (JD) and at Cartington Hill on 22nd (MJC).

**Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*

Two juveniles were at Linden Hall (Longhorsley) on 9th (NFO) and two were at Cresswell Pond on 29th (NFO). Single birds were seen at Gosforth Park NR on 2nd & 8th (KWY/CDB), Druridge Pools on 4th (MSH), and Hauxley NWT on 14th & 16th (HRS/CDB), Marden Quarry (Whitley Bay on 16th (KWY), St Mary's Island & Walbottle on 24th (IJ/KR/LR), Corbridge on 25th (RB/MB) and Holy Island on 27th (MJC).

**Common Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*

Seven birds were at Humshaugh on 4th (MR), six were at Allen Banks on 24th (MJC), five were at Alnwick High School on 20th (JMA) and at Grindon Lough on 24th (SJH) and four birds were seen at Prestwick Carr on 23rd (PCF) and at Arcot Pond on 27th (STH). One - three birds were at 14 other sites.

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetuss*

Single birds were noted near Cresswell Pond on 1st (ADM), Mounces Viewpoint (Kielder) on 8th (PHH), Fontburn Reservoir on 21st (JD/TRD), Derwent Reservoir on 25th & 27th (IFo) and at Lindisfarne NNR and Holy Island on 31st (IK/SR/AH).

**Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus*

Gosforth Park NR had six birds, but including this year's young it could be over 15 birds (NHSN). Between three to four birds were seen at Swallow Pond throughout the month (JPD/SPP), Arcot Pond, Big Waters and Weetslade CP had 2 birds, while single birds were at Cresswell Pond and East Chevington.



A Water Rail swims at Gosforth NR by Chris Barlow

**Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*

Five pairs fledged a total of 25 young from eight broods at Haughton GPs (Humshaugh) MR). 37 were at Arcot Pond on 3rd (LJM) and 35 birds were at Big Waters on 15th (GB) were the highest counts. 17 were at Hauxley NWT on 14th (HRS), 15 were at Royal Quays (North Shields) on 24th. One – six birds were at Cresswell Pond, Druridge Pools, Exhibition Park (Newcastle), Grindon Lough, Holywell Dene and Linton Pond.

**Coot** *Fulica atra*

The highest counts were 41 birds at Swallow Pond on 25th (JPD), 40 birds at Hauxley NWT on 14th (HRS), and 30 at Woodhorn Flash on 16th (CDB), 27 at Linton Ponds on 23rd (CDH), 25 at Bothal Pond on 24th (TD) and 22 at Big Waters on 13th (GB). Grindon Lough peaked with 15 birds on 24th and 26th (SJH) and three were at Cresswell Pond on 3rd (IJ).

**Avocet** *Recurvirostra avosetta*

The early few days of the month saw peaks of 12 on 3rd (TRD/JD) and 14 on 5th (CDB) at Cresswell Pond; thereafter, numbers dwindled to seven in mid-month and the last three (adult and two young) on 26th (ADMc). Four were also noted at Budle Bay on 31st (TRD/JD/GPK).



An adult Avocet at Cresswell Pond by Tim Dean

**Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus*

Passage at Seaton Sluice totalled 500 (150 N and 350 S) during the month (SSWT). Lindisfarne NNR attracted the highest gathering with 600 in the high-tide roost at The Beacons on 16th (IK) and again at Guile Point on 24th (ASJ), whilst 400 were also counted between Beal Point-Longbridge End on 9th (SJH). The high-tide roost at North Blyth staithes numbered 143 on 14th (STH), 103 roosted at St Mary's Island on 20th (JPD), 95 was the peak at Tynemouth on 18th (DRW) and 86 were noted at Hauxley NWT on 16th (CDB). Some eight to 34 were seen at other coastal sites including Amble, Berwick North Shore, Rockcliffe (Whitley Bay), Seaton Sluice, Snab Point and the Tweed Estuary, whilst up to four were present at inland Derwent Reservoir on three dates during the first half of the month. An adult and a large juvenile were seen at Northumberland Business Park (Cramlington) on 20th (LJM).

**Golden Plover** *Pluvialis apricaria*

Some large post-breeding flocks arrived this month, with the largest being 1,100 at Holy Island on 14th considered to be Northern birds (IK). St Mary's Island also held 600+ returning birds on 27th (MSH), 360 were at Boulmer on 16th (NFO), 210 (120 N and 90 S) passed Seaton Sluice during 13th-22nd (SSWT) and Newbiggin (Beacon Point) held 100 on 9th and 200 on 21st (GB). Inland, 45 were noted at Thirlwall Common on 19th (IFo) and 31 were at Grindon Lough on 13th (SJH). Elsewhere, one to five were seen at Amble, Cresswell Pond, East Chevington, Riddlees Cairn and Rockcliffe (Whitley Bay).

**Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*

Lindisfarne NNR held four on 10th (SJH) and one to two were reported in the same area on four further occasions. Singles were also noted at Amble Braid, Blyth Estuary, Druridge Pools, Seaton Sluice (one N on 18th), St Mary's Island (singles N on 18th/26th) and Tynemouth (one N on 26th).

**Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus*

Cresswell Pond attracted a consistently large flock throughout the month, with peaks of 520 on 3rd (IJ) and 600 on 30th (ASJ), with fewer numbers noted on several other dates. Inland, Derwent Reservoir held 500 on 28th (IFo), 466 were at Grindon Lough on 13th (SJH) and 375 were at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 26th (SR). Counts of 260-356 were noted at Bothal Pond, Cocklawburn, Haughton Strother GP, Hauxley NWT and Monks' House Pool, and 100-200 were at Castle Island, Charlton Mires Flash (near Alnwick), Druridge Pools, Milkwell (Corbridge), St Mary's Island and Sleek Burn. Elsewhere, 50-64 were seen at Bywell Haughs, Linton Pond and the Tweed Estuary.



**Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius*

Low water levels at Castle Island attracted five (two adults and three juveniles) on 1st (MSH) and Cresswell Pond held three on 5th (DLo) and one to two until 30th. Derwent Reservoir also held up to three (involving four birds – an adult and three juveniles) on several dates throughout the month (IFo). Two were noted at Budle Bay on 21st (first here for the observer in 36 years of regular watching) and at West Hartford from 21st-22nd (CGK/GPK/GB/LJM); the latter site also retained a juvenile from 17th-31st. Singles were also at Druridge Pools and Mootlaw Quarry (Ryal), both on 30th (RB/MB/ALT).

**Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*

Post-breeding produced some good gatherings; the peak was 116 at Berwick Little Beach on 17th whilst roosting birds on a factory roof at Blyth South Harbour numbered 86 on 12th (MSH) and 99 on 28th (STH). Passage/local movements at Seaton Sluice totalled 47 (25 N and 22 S) between 4th-26th (SSWT), 51 were counted between Beal Sands-Black Low on 9th (SJH), 45 (including a downy young less than 2 weeks old) were at Chevington Burn mouth on 3rd (AB/LB) and 44 were counted at Cocklawburn on 7th (MHu). Smaller groups of 14-25 were seen at Amble Braid, Blyth Estuary, Budle Bay and on the Tweed Estuary. Up to eight were seen at inland Derwent Reservoir until the 13th (IFo) and one to three were at Berwick North Shore, Cresswell Pond, Grindon Lough, Hauxley, Stag Rocks and West Stobswood pool (a pair with a brood of three about one week old).

**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*

Passage at Seaton Sluice involved seven N and three S between 1st-23rd (SSWT) and six flew S at Newbiggin on 21st (GB). Five were seen at Cocklawburn on 7th (MHu), Holy Island on 10th (SR/AH) and Druridge Pools on 20th (MJC) and one to three were noted at Berwick North Shore, Blyth Estuary (three dates), Cresswell Pond (three dates), Druridge Pools, East Chevington, Hauxley, Lindisfarne NNR (five dates), Low Newton, Newbiggin (three dates), St Mary's Island, Stag Rocks, Wansbeck Estuary and Yarrow Slake (Tweed).

**Curlew** *Numenius arquata*

Large numbers in the north included ca.500 between Beal Point-Longbridge End on 9th and 200-300 in the period 8th-11th in the same area (SJH). The Tweed Estuary held 98 on 7th (MHu) and 90 were at Amble Braid on 31st (GB). Numbers in the Holywell Dene area peaked at 55 during the month (RJP) and 55 were at nearby St Mary's Island on 15th (JPD). Flocks of 11-21 were noted at Berwick North Shore, Druridge Pools, Hauxley NWT and Howdon; and low single figure reports came from a further five sites.

**Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa*

The highest counts were 32 at Castle Island on 1st (MSH) and 23 on the Blyth Estuary on 12th (LJM). The species was regularly reported from Cresswell Pond with a high of nine on 3rd (TRD/JD) and regular single-figure reports on the Blyth Estuary included nine on 28th (STH). Seven were noted again at Castle Island on 23rd (GB) and in Budle Bay on 24th (CGK/GPK). Elsewhere, five to six were seen at Amble Harbour, Druridge Pools and Low Newton scrape, and one to four at Bothal Pond, Cocklawburn, Fenham-le-Moor, Hoppen Kiln Flash, Seaton Sluice (one S on 1st), St Mary's Island (four heading N on 13th) and Tynemouth (one N on 31st).

**Bar-tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica*

St Cuthbert's Island at Holy Island held ca.550 in the high-tide roost on 15th which included ca.60 still in breeding dress (IK). Fewer numbers (maximum 130) were reported from the Lindisfarne NNR area on six further occasions. Typically much smaller numbers were seen elsewhere, with seven at Boulmer on 8th (TRD), two at Amble on 12th (IJ) and singles at the Blyth Estuary, Cresswell Pond, Hauxley NWT (three dates) and Tynemouth.

**Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*

A total of 50 flew S during 14th to 26th at Seaton Sluice Watch Tower. The most 'on the ground' was 73 on various staithees at North Blyth on 14th (STH) followed by 15 at Newbiggin on 21st and ten at Hauxley on 16th. Three to seven were at Cheswick, Kitty Brewster, Stag Rocks and Whitley Bay and one or two at Amble, Berwick, Cresswell, the Tweed Estuary and the Wansbeck Estuary.

**Knot** *Calidris canutus*

Most were found in the north east: 35 at Holy Island on 24th (ASJ), 26 at Beal Point on 11th (SJH) and 13 in Budle Bay on 10th. Cresswell Pond hosted up to nine during 2nd to 22nd, eight were at Amble Braid on 23rd and six in the Tweed Estuary on 31st. Four or fewer were noted at Castle Island, Charlton Mires flash, Holywell Pond, Kitty Brewster, Newbiggin, St Mary's and Tynemouth.

**Ruff** *Calidris pugnax*

Some impressive numbers occurred, especially later in the month, including at Low Newton 38+ on 30th (GPK) and 60 on 31st (CB). Charlton Mires flash held 21 on 25th (AH), Druridge Pools had a peak of 17 on 31st (GB) and selected peaks at Cresswell Pond were of eight on 5th, 12 on 11th and 15 on 9th (NFO/TF/JFa/JPD). Also 11 were at Bothal Pond on 24th (TF/JFa) with a smaller presence throughout and ten remained at Charlton Mires on 31st. Hoppen Kiln Flash had up to six, West Hartford up to four from 11th, Grindon Lough four on 26th, three were in Budle Bay on 9th and 21st, two were at Gosforth Park NR from 18th and two visited Kitty Brewster and Holywell Pond in the last week or so. Singles appeared at another eight places along the coast and inland at Haughton Strother GP.



A Ruff at Druridge Pools on 18th August by Tim Dean

**Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea*

Four adults were on Hauxley beach on 9th (JPD/MPF/AWS), three at Beal Point on 10th (SJH) and three juveniles at Low Newton on 31st (CB). Singles were at Long Nanny on 9th, Budle Bay on 21st, Hauxley on 23rd/24th, Grindon Lough on 26th and at Cresswell Pond on 29th and 31st.

**Stilt Sandpiper** *Calidris himantopus*

The breeding-plumaged adult at Cresswell Pond in late July was found at Druridge Pools from 3rd to 5th (TRD/JD/IJ *et al.*); it moved back to Cresswell Pond on 5th and remained there until 13th.



The Stilt Sandpiper photographed by Chris Barlow at Druridge Pools in August



**Temminck's Stint** *Calidris temminckii*

One, un-aged, was reported from Holy Island, Rocket Field pools on 9th (BG per IK).

**Sanderling** *Calidris alba*

St Mary's held 200 on 3rd (SPP), up from 40+ on 1st, and 170 on 29th (ASJ). The peak at Hauxley was 90 on 9th (JPD), 60 were at Chevington Burn mouth on 3rd (AB/LB) and 30 were at Holy Island Sandham Bay and at Newbiggin on 31st (IK/GB).

**Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*

The north east held the largest numbers: 210 in Budle Bay on 21st, up from 60+ on 10th (CGK/GPK), 150 At Fenham-le-Moor on 31st (TRD/JD), 122 at Beal Point on 11th (SJH) and 120 from Beal Sands to Black Low on 9th (SJH). At Cresswell Pond there was an early peak of 110+ on 1st (MSH) before numbers gradually fell away to 35 by mid month. The Blyth Harbour/Kitty Brewster area had 42-45 in the last week or so and 25-32 appeared at Amble Braid, Berwick, Castle Island and Chevington Burn mouth. Up to nine were recorded at another five places at or near the coast and small numbers were noted inland at Derwent Reservoir, Grindon Lough and Haughton Strother GP.



Above Sanderling in a roost at St. Mary's by Alan Jack and below a Dunlin at Druridge Pools by Tim Dean

**Purple Sandpiper** *Calidris maritima*

Two flew S at Seaton Sluice Watch Tower on 15th and four were at Rockcliffe (Whitley Bay) on 17th (IJ). Three were at Newbiggin on 21st (GB) and one at Tynemouth on 23rd.



**Little Stint** *Calidris minuta*

A juvenile was found at Cresswell Pond on 29th (NFO) and two juveniles were present there on 30th/31st (RB/MB/ASJ *et al.*).



A dapper Little Stint at Cresswell by Jonathan Farooqi on 31st August

**Pectoral Sandpiper** *Calidris melanotos*

An adult was at Charlton Mires flash on 27th/28th (AH/MSH).



The Charlton Mires Pectoral Sandpiper photographed on 28th August by Jonathan Farooqi

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*

Coastal passage was widespread with peaks of nine in Budle Bay on 10th (CGK/GPK), five at Cresswell Pond on 17th (CGK/PS) and four at Hauxley on 11th (TF/JFa). Up to seven were noted at a further seven places at or near the coast. Some passed, or lingered, inland including four at Derwent Reservoir on 12th with one to two there until 28th (IFo), four at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 15th (SR), three at Haughton Strother GP on 6th, two at Big Waters on 7th to 10th with singles at Wark on 5th and at Rothbury on 14th.





A Common Sandpiper in the Cresswell sunshine by Colin Bradshaw

#### **Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*

At the Whittle Dene Reservoirs stronghold one was seen on 7th/8th and a notable ten on 12th with six on 20th (*SR et al.*). Six were at Charlton Mires flash on 13th (AH) and birds were present throughout at Gosforth Park NR and adjacent pool, with a maximum of five on 7th (NHSN). Two were at each of Castle Island on 1st, Swallow Pond on 6th and West Hartford on 15th to 17th, with one at the latter on 31st. It was also present throughout at Haughton Strother GP, with two on 12th. Singles were noted occasionally in the Cresswell and Druridge Pools areas and at Arcot Pond, Hoppen Kiln Flash, Linden Hall and Ryal.

#### **Spotted Redshank** *Tringa erythropus*

Single juveniles, possibly the same, were at Warkworth Gut on 9th and 16th/17th (NFO/GB) and also a juvenile was in Budle Bay on 9th (CGK). A juvenile at Cresswell Pond flew N on 12th and was probably the one found at Druridge Pools on 13th (TF/JFa/JPL) before it returned to Cresswell Pond on 15th/16th. Juveniles were in Budle Bay from 22nd to 29th (CGK/GPK *et al.*), at Amble Braid on 23rd (GB) and one was at Bothal pond on 26th (TF/JFa).

#### **Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*

Two flew S at Seaton Sluice Watch Tower on 22nd. Relatively good numbers were recorded in the Beal Point area of Lindisfarne NNR: six on 8th, ten on 9th, 11 on 11th with ten on 13th (SJH/IK); six were in Budle Bay on 21st (CGK/GPK). It was present throughout at Gosforth Park NR and adjacent pool, usually two to four but five on 15th (NHSN) and the most at Druridge Pools was five on 9th (JPD). West Hartford attracted two on 1st then three during 11th to 23rd and two on 26th (STH/LJM/GB). Two circled Arcot Pond without landing on 3rd and other twosomes appeared at Cresswell Pond, St Mary's and the Tweed Estuary; singles were reported from another 15 localities at or near the coast. One at Howdon on 27th was noted as 'very rare at this site' The furthest inland were one to two at Derwent Reservoir irregularly during 10th to 31st and one at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 20th.



A Greenshank at Druridge Pools by Tim Dean



**Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*

Three were at Charlton Mires flash on 25th (AH), two at Hoppen Kiln Flash on 8th/9th (CGK/GPK) and two at Druridge Pools on 9th and 12th (GB/JPD/JSB). Singles were Druridge Pools on 6th, Big Waters on 7th/8th, Cresswell Pond on 13th and 16th and at Druridge Pools from 13th to 15th and 20th.

**Redshank** *Tringa totanus*

A total 285 (62 N, 223 S) passed Seaton Sluice Watch Tower during 1st to 19th. The staithe at HT in North Blyth held 547 on 14th (STH), 400 were at Amble on 12th (IJ), regularly 300 were in the HT roost at Holy Island Rocket Field pools (IK), 300 were at Beal Point on 9th (SJH) and 250 at Amble Braid on 23rd (GB). Other higher counts were of 155 in Budle Bay on 23rd, 140 at Kitty Brewster on 21st and 138 in the Tweed Estuary on 7th. Also 30-43 were noted at Hauxley and in the R Wansbeck area and nine to 18 at Berwick, Cresswell Pond and Whitley Bay. There were just two inland reports: one at Derwent Reservoir on 13th and five at Grindon Lough on 26th.

**Woodcock** *Scolopax rusticola*

There were no reports.

**Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*

Passage along the coastal strip was most evident at Cresswell Pond with 60+ on 5th (MSH) rising to 81 or more on 10th (AA); also 30-35+ at Hoppen Kiln Flash during 9th-24th (CGK/GPK) and a peak of 32 at Druridge Pools on 4th (CDB). Seven to ten were noted at Big Waters, Bothal Pond, Castle Island, Charlton Mires flash and Hauxley NR. Other records include five at Derwent Reservoir on 22nd, four at West Hartford on 31st, two in the wader roost at Beal Point on 9th and one on the tide line at Berwick on 26th.



A Snipe at Druridge Pools  
by Colin Bradshaw

**Pomarine Skua** *Stercorarius pomarinus*

All flew N: two at Seaton Sluice Watch Tower on 15th, singles at St Mary's and Newbiggin on 20th (JBu/JPD/MPF/PHH) and at Newbiggin on 27th (PHH).

**Arctic Skua** *Stercorarius parasiticus*

A total of 68 (56 N, 12 S) moved past Seaton Sluice Watch Tower, described as 'well below Aug average', and included 42 N on 25th/26th. Some long sea watches at St Mary's were productive with ten on 18th, 19 on 20th, 16 on 26th and 14 on 27th (all JPD). At Newbiggin 11 flew N in 3.5 hours on 26th (TF/JFa) and at least five were off there on 19th. Four moved N at Snab Point on 18th, four were off Tynemouth on 26th, three flew N at Hauxley on 15th and three went N at Newbiggin on 28th. Singles were seen at Tynemouth on 14th, Whitley Bay on 17th and at Berwick on 18th.



**Long-tailed Skua** *Stercorarius longicaudus*

An adult flew N at Seaton Sluice Watch Tower on 25th (MHe). At least four individuals seem to have occurred on 26th: a sub-adult and two juveniles flew N at St Mary's (JPD); two juveniles moved S together and an adult moved N at Tynemouth (SPP).

**Great Skua** *Stercorarius skua*

A total of ten (seven N, three S) was noted off St Mary's during 15th to 27th (JPD/MSH) and eight (seven N, one S) passed Seaton Sluice Watch Tower during 10th to 26th. At least two flew N at Newbiggin on 19th and one on 22nd and one went N at Snab Point on 15th.

**Puffin** *Fratercula arctica*

The single record was of 15 moving S past St Mary's Island on 2nd (JPD).

**Razorbill** *Alca torda*

Two birds on the sea at Seaton Sluice on 1st was the only report this month (SSWT).

**Guillemot** *Uria aalge*

A total of only 20 were recorded moving N at Seaton Sluice from 18th-31st (SSWT) and elsewhere, at Rockcliffe (Whitley Bay), one to four were noted on a number of dates during the month (IJ).

**Little Tern** *Sternula albifrons*

Three adults and two juveniles flew over the Warkworth Gut beach on 9th (NFO), four flew S on 4th-5th at Seaton Sluice (SSWT) and three juveniles moved N at Tynemouth on 9th (SPP). One to two were recorded at Beal Point (Lindisfarne) from 9th-11th (SJH) and a single flew over the Holy Island Causeway on 31st (ADM).

**Black Tern** *Chlidonias niger*

A single juvenile was at Big Waters on 6th (CDB/GB/PHH) and single un-aged birds flew N at Snab Point on 18th and at Church Point (Newbiggin) on 26th (both TF/JFa).



The Big Waters Black Tern by Chris Barlow on 6th August

**Sandwich Tern** *Sterna sandvicensis*

No large counts came from the Seaton Sluice watch point with the maximum being 143S in 1.5 hours on 13th and 60S in one hour on 5th (SSWT). A roost of 300 at Guile Point (Lindisfarne) on 24th contained many juveniles (ASJ) with significant roosts elsewhere comprising 230 at Berwick Meadow Haven on 24th (MHu), ca.200 at Beal Point (Lindisfarne) on 11th (SJH), 134 at Cocklawburn on 15th (MHu) and 120 at Beal Point on 9th (SJH). The River Tweed Estuary also held a roost containing up to 84 on several dates throughout the month (MHu). One to eight were recorded at several other coastal sites.

**Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*

Maximum counts at Seaton Sluice were 60S in two hours on 10th and 60N in two hours on 18th (SSWT). An 'unusually' high number, 35, loafed on the sandbank in front of the Cresswell Pond hide on 28th (TRD/JD) and a maximum of 14 were at Howdon on 11th (CB), 12 at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 4th (SR) with one to six at Bamburgh, Druridge Pools, Elswick (R. Tyne), Gosforth Park NR (where two juveniles were being hunted by otters), the River Tweed Estuary and Whitley Bay.

**Roseate Tern** *Sterna dougallii*

Five were recorded moving N from 10th-19th at Seaton Sluice (SSWT), with one to three noted elsewhere at Beal Point (Lindisfarne), Berwick (Meadow Haven), Holy Island, St Mary's Island and Tynemouth.

**Arctic Tern** *Sterna paradisaea*

Very low numbers were recorded at Seaton Sluice, none into double figures (SSWT) but three-figure counts elsewhere were 310 at Budle Point on 23rd (CGK/GPK) and 184 at Berwick Meadow Haven on 31st (MHu). Smaller gatherings of 20-40 were noted at Beal Point (Lindisfarne) (SJH), Berwick Meadow Haven and the River Tweed Estuary with six at Cocklawburn on 6th (all MHu).

**Kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla*

Large numbers passed Seaton Sluice in the early morning of 26th when 2,000 moved N in one hour and on the previous day 650 were counted N in 2.5 hours (SSWT). Large concentrations elsewhere included 340 in the gull roost on the Tweed Estuary on 26th (MHu) and 300 on the sea at Cullernose Point on 8th of which 50% were juveniles, indicative of a good breeding season (TRD). A roost at Sandstell Point (Berwick) on 18th contained 46 (MHu) and counts of 20-30 came from Howdon (CB), the Tyne Bridge (JMA) and Whitley Bay (IJ).

**Black-headed Gull** *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

Roosts at Budle Point and West Ord (Berwick) recorded 1,300 on 21st (CGK/GPK) and 1,100 on 24th (MHu) respectively, with an 'unprecedented' gathering of 860 mixed adults and juveniles at Bothal Pond on 15th (TD). Smaller concentrations were 350 at Haughton Strother GP (Humshaugh) on 27th (MR), 250 at Thrunton on 7th (JMA), 150 at Cresswell Pond on 21st (IRD) and 126 at West Hartford on 11th (LJM). Seven other mainly coastal localities held 20-60 birds during the first half of the month.

**Little Gull** *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

Following the earlier summer influx very few birds were recorded this month with three moving N at Seaton Sluice between 20th-26th (SSWT) and singles at Holy Island on 10th (SR/AH) and Meadow Haven (Berwick) on 17th (MHu).

**Mediterranean Gull** *Larus melanocephalus*

Very well reported with 34 records submitted. Newbiggin held a maximum of 46 (40 adults/2nd winter and 6 juveniles) on 24th (MN) with other counts there ranging between 5 and 21 on various dates throughout the month (TF/JFa/STH/ADMc/NFO). An adult, with white ring E913 was ringed as a *pullus* in Belgium in 2012 and subsequently recorded in Portugal in April 2013. Birds were also present throughout at Snab Point with 45, of all ages, counted on 21st (JL). Eight were at Budle Bay on 21st (CGK/GPK) and one to three at Amble Harbour, Bothal Pond, Castle Island, Cresswell Pond, Ellington, Holy Island, Linton Lane NWT, St Mary's Island, Tynemouth and Whittle Dene Reservoirs. An adult at St Mary's Island on 13th carried a red ring, PLL1, ringed in Poland (JPD/MPF/AS).

**Common Gull** *Larus canus*

With birds now returning from their northern breeding grounds, the gull roost at Budle Bay built up to at least 5,000 on 21st, a high count for August (CGK/GPK) and 2,000 were in the roost at Derwent Reservoir on 31st (JL). Lesser gatherings were 760 at West Ord on 24th (MHu), 540 at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 26th (SR) and 300 at Haughton Strother GP on 27th (MR).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus graelsii*

A WeBS survey on the River Tweed Estuary on 7th included 287 (MHu) and inland, at Callaly, a gathering of 250 was recorded on 19th (JD) with 25 at nearby Thrunton on 7th (JMA). Ten fed on a ploughed field at Big Waters on 26th (GB) and smaller numbers of one to seven were seen at Berwick (North Shore), Grindon Lough and Whitley Bay.

**Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus argenteus*

Several large gatherings were reported with 820 on the River Tweed Estuary on 7th (MHu), 600 at Budle Point on 21st (CGK/GPK), 560 following a plough at Ord Moor (Berwick) on 10th (MHu), 250 at Thrunton (JMA) and Callaly (JD) on 7th and 19th respectively and 120 at St Mary's Island on 5th (JMA). Flocks of 20-80 were at Berwick North Shore, Big Waters, the North Shields Fish Quay, Percy Main, Tynemouth and Whitley Bay.

**\*Yellow-legged Gull** *Larus michahellis*

A 'probable' adult roosted with other gulls at Castle Island on 21st but was disturbed before photographic proof of identification could be obtained (GB).

**\*Caspian Gull** *Larus cachinnans*

A third-summer bird carrying a leg ring PKCS was recorded on Amble Braid on 9th (JPD/MPF/AS) but it was not immediately identified as this species; however, the finders determined that the ring was Polish and confirmation that the bird was indeed a Caspian Gull. A record was also submitted of a prior sighting of this ringed individual on 6th (MJC) so it may well have been in the Amble area for some time before its discovery. Following the positive identification, the bird was seen daily by many observers in and around Amble Harbour, up to the month-end (CDB/TRD/JD/IF/IJ/PRM *et al.*). This is the second county record, the first being an immature at Grindon Lough in June 2007, at which time it was a newly 'split' species.

**Great Black-backed Gull** *Larus marinus*

The largest count was 65 at Budle Point on 21st (CG/GPK) but elsewhere 20 at Whitley Bay on 9th, 15 on the River Tweed Estuary (MHu) and 11 at Amble on 16th (CDB) were the only other double-figure counts. Three to five were at four other localities.

**Rock Dove** *Columba livia*

On 7th 12 were at Rockcliffe (Whitley Bay) declining to 17 on 17th (IJ).





The Amble Caspian Gull, one of the most photographed birds of the year. Above in profile by Mike Potts and below it spreads its wings for Tim Dean



**Stock Dove** *Columba oenas*

A maximum monthly count of 16 at Howdon on 18th (CB), six at Cresswell Pond on 4th (NFO), four at Marden Quarry (Whitley Bay) on 31st (KWY) and one to three at Cresswell Pond on five dates, Town Moor (Newcastle), Rowley Burn and West Hartford.

**Woodpigeon** *Columba palumbus*

Only one large gathering of 75-100 at Hartley West Farm on 28th (RJP), ten at Brandon on 16th (JMA), six at Cresswell Pond on 3rd (IJ) with an adult and three juveniles in a Walbottle garden on 10th (KR/LR).





A Stock Dove at Howdon Wetland by Colin Bradshaw

**Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*

Ten were at Dinnington on 23rd and Station Road (Cramlington) on 28th with four at Beacon Hill (Cramlington) on 12th (PCF), three at Amble on 16th (CDB) and two in a Walbottle garden on 10th.

**Cuckoo** *Cuculus canorus*

All reports were juveniles at East Chevington South Pool on 1st (ADMc), Cresswell Pond from 6th to 12th (RD/IF/MN/TF/JFa/ADMc), Gowk Hill (Rothbury) on 28th (TRD/JD) and Holy Island on the same date (TF/JFa).



A Cuckoo on Holy Island on 28th August by Jonathan Farooqi



**Barn Owl** *Tyto alba*

Singles at Hauxley on 3rd (AA), Matfen on 5th (PRM), Cresswell Pond on 18th & 22nd (JSB/TRD/JD) and East Chevington on 25th (IF). The record year at Holy Island continued with two pairs having already fledged three young breeding again with one pair hatching three chicks and the other on six eggs (IK).



A Barn Owl returns with lunch  
At Cresswell by Tim Dean

**Little Owl** *Athene noctua*

Breeding records from High Mickley saw two pairs with six eggs fledge two young whilst another pair failed at egg stage (SWA).

**Tawny Owl** *Strix aluco*

One called at High Church (Morpeth) on 20th (IRD) and on 25th a juvenile initially found on the ground at Holywell Dene was up a tree one hour later (RJP) and one was over the observer's Walbottle garden at dusk on 31st (KR/LR).

**Short eared owl** *Asio flammeus*

On 29th a tired migrant sheltered from a westerly gale on a bank below the point at Emmanuel Head (Holy Island) (IK).

**Swift** *Apus apus*

Well reported throughout the month with the highest counts 85 at Whitley Bay on 8th, 60 at Lynemouth on 9th (ASJ) and at Waggonway Road (Alnwick) on 7th (JMA), 40 moving south at Woolsington Ponds on 5th (SRB) with 20-30 at Amble harbour, East Ord (Berwick), Elswick (Newcastle), Holywell Dene and Old Hartley, all in the first half of the month. The nesting population migrated at Whitley Bay and Lynemouth on 10th (ASJ) with 20 still at Alnwick on 23rd (AH) and 15 moving south together at Tynemouth on 28th (DRW). One to 16 were at 23 widespread localities till the month end with a single at East Cramlington on 31st possibly not the last.

**Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*

Up to three were at Haughton Strother GP (Humshaugh) during the month (MR), two at Bakethin Reservoir on 1st & 22nd (MD), Derwent Reservoir on 23rd (IFo) with singles at Gosforth Park NR & adjacent pool, Chesters Fort, Derwent Reservoir, Holywell Dene, Howick Burn mouth, Jesmond Dene, Low Angerton, Ogle Bridge, Wark (N.Tyne) and Whittle Dene Reservoirs.

**Wryneck** *Jynx torquilla*

On 31st one was found at 3.10pm in dunes between Chare Ends and the Excavations. It was constantly mobbed by Swallows if it left its favoured hawthorn bush (ADM).

**Green Woodpecker** *Picus viridis*

Singles at Gosforth Park NR and Rothbury during the month (NHSN/TRD/JD) with one also at Swallow Pond on 5th (JPD).

**Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major*

Three were at Prestwick Carr on 27th (PCF), two at Holywell Dene during the month (RJP), Exhibition Park (Newcastle) on 14th (GB) with singles in gardens at Dinnington, Walbottle, Brunswick Green (Wideopen) and at Thrunton Woods, Simonside and Marden Quarry (Whitley Bay).

**Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*

Three birds were at Prestwick Carr on 23rd (PCF) and two were at St Mary's Island on 24th (IJ). Singles were at Cuddystone Hall, Druridge Pools, Hauxley NWT, Kirknewton, Longhorsley, Milkwell (Corbridge) and at Simonside

**Merlin** *Falco columbarius*

A juvenile female was being mobbed by Swallows *Hirundo rustica* at Holy Island Village on 14th (IK), a juvenile was at Cresswell Pond on 21st (ADMc/IRD) and again on 22nd & 23rd (TRD/JD/RB/MB).

**Hobby** *Falco subbuteo*

An adult briefly chased a Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* at Druridge Pools on 2nd (TD).

**Peregrine** *Falco peregrinus*

Two birds were in Budle Bay all month preying on Redshank *Tringa totanus* and Teal *Anas crecca* (CGK/GPK). A female at Lindisfarne on 10th was reported to have killed two or three terns (*sp*) in the breeding colony including a ringed juvenile Little Tern *Sternula albifrons* presumably from the Long Nanny colony (IK). Other singles were at Seaton Sluice on 13th (SSWT), in the Cheviots on 22nd (IRD), Snab Point (Cresswell) on 24th (JL) and at Humshaugh on 25th (MR).

**Magpie** *Pica pica*

Just two reports of six in the observer's garden at Walbottle on 31st (KR/LR) and at Whitley Bay Cemetery on 24th (IJ).

**Jay** *Garrulus glandarius*

A family party of six was at Haughton Strother on 25th (MR), five at Gosforth Park NR during the month (NHSN), three at Linden Hall (Longhorsley) on 19th (NFO) with two at Swallow Pond on 5th (JPD) and Castle Island on 31st (GB). Singles were at Big Waters, Castle Island, Havannah NR, Prestwick Carr and Sleek Burn.

**Jackdaw** *Corvus monedula*

A peak monthly count of 41 at Howdon on 18th (CB), 35 at Dinnington on 23rd (PCF), 25 at Bolton on 7th (JMA) and five in a Walbottle garden on 31st (KR/LR).

**Rook** *Corvus frugilegus*

On 6th, 60 at Hole, 50 at Otterburn Village, 40 at West Woodburn and 20 at Cornhills, Low Leam and Otterburn Mill. On 7th, 75 at Hethpool and Longframlington, 50 at Bolton and Edlingham with 45 at Longhorsley and 20 at Fenrother (JMA).

**Carrion Crow** *Corvus corone*

Low counts of two in a garden at Walbottle (KR/LR) and at Rockcliffe (Whitley Bay), Druridge Pools and Cresswell Pond (IJ).

**Raven** *Corvus corax*

Five the highest count at Greenhaugh on 20th (MD), three at Hedgehope and Cartington Hill on 22nd (IRD/MJC), two at Old Bewick on 17th, Border Ridge on 18th and Simonside on 23rd with one there on 9th.

**Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus*

More than four at Bondicarr (Hauxley) on 23rd (MSH) with one at West Hartford on 6th (STH) and Holy Island on 31st (ADM).

**Blue Tit** *Cyanistes caeruleus*

The highest count for the month in a Walbottle garden was eight (KR/LR) with three at Rockcliffe Cemetery (Whitley Bay) on 5th and present at Whitley Bay Cemetery on 24th (IJ). Nest boxes at Dipton Mill held 11 pairs with 120 eggs with 110 young (SWA).

**Great Tit** *Parus major*

Three in a garden at Walbottle on 31st (KR/LR) and present at Whitley Bay Cemetery on 24th (IJ). Nest boxes at Dipton Mill held 7 pairs with 50 eggs and 42 young (SWA).

**Coal Tit** *Periparus ater*

An Old Hartley garden held one to three during the month (RJP) with two at Whitley Bay Cemetery on 24th (IJ) and in a Walbottle garden on 31st (KR/LR). Only one pair used nest boxes at Dipton Mill with eight eggs and eight young (SWA).

**Willow Tit** *Poecile montanus*

One to two were in an Old Hartley garden during the month with likely the same two in Holywell Dene (RJP) and two at Derwent Reservoir on 3rd (IFo). Elsewhere only singles at Linden Hall (Longhorsley) on four dates, Big Waters on two and at Prestwick Carr and Derwent Reservoir.



**Marsh Tit** *Poecile palustris*

A single report of one at Linden Hall (Longhorsley) on 5th (NFO).

*hirundine* sp.

A gathering of around 100 at Longhorsley on 30th possibly attracted by an ant hatch (AB/LB).

**Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia*

Large numbers of 150+ at Big Waters on 13th & 14th peaking at 250 on 18th (GB) but down to 25 on 29th. 150 at Cresswell Pond on 6th (RD/IF), 110 at Arcot Pond on 30th & 27th (ASJ/STH), 100 at Haughton Strother GP on 6th (MR), 75 at Bothal Pond on 9th (IRD) and 70 at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 15th (SR). One to 40 were at six other locations.

**Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*

Reed bed roost counts returned high numbers with 5,000 at Cramlington A & E Hospital on 15th (LJM), 2,000 the peak at Gosforth Park NR and adjacent pool (NHSN) and at Newton Pool on 28th (IF). 520 flew south in one hour at Seaton Sluice Watch Tower and 400 south at Tynemouth between 3.30-5.30pm on 28th at Tynemouth (DRW). 400 fed on an insect hatch at Cresswell on 30th (ASJ), 250 over the village at High Newton on 30th (CB), 200 at West Hartford on 26th (STH) and around 180 at Holy Island on 31st (ADM). Two to 100 were at 22 other locations with a pair fledging young from a natural site in a boulder clay cliff at Holy Island being a first of its kind (IK).

Top: a Marsh Tit at a Rothbury bird bath by Tim Dean.

Centre: A Swallow flexes its wings at Druridge Pools by Chris Barlow and bottom

Bottom: House Martins gather on a fence on Newcastle Town Moor by Graeme Bowman,

**House Martin** *Delichon urbica*

A high count of 64 at East Ord (Berwick) on 16th (MHu), 50 at St Mary's Island on 25th and Snab Point (Cresswell) on 30th (ASJ), 40 at Whitley Bay on 24th (IJ) and 30 at Meadow Riggs (Alnwick), Big Waters, Holywell Dene and Wooler (JMA/CDB/RJP).

One to 20 were at twelve other widespread localities with active nests still at Alnwick Leisure Centre on 12th and Newcastle Airport on 29th.





**Long-tailed Tit** *Aegithalos caudatus*

15 visited a garden in Tynemouth on 28th (CB), 13 were near Humshaugh on 27th, 12 at East Cramlington LNR on 31st and four at Howdon on 28th.

**Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita*

At least ten were with a mixed tit flock near Humshaugh on 27th (MR); three to five were reported from Bamburgh, Druridge Pools and Exhibition Park and one to two at a further ten localities.

**Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus*

More than ten were at Druridge Pools on 22nd (MSH) and six + at Holywell Pond on 24th. Holy Island held five returning migrants on 12th and six on 31st and counts of four to five were reported from Bamburgh, Exhibition Park, Longhorsley and Longhorsley Moor. One to three were noted at a further six localities.

**Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*

Three juveniles were at Prestwick Carr on 23rd (PCF). Two were found at Hauxley NR on 14th, Longhorsley on 20th and Northumberlandia on 24th.

**Lesser Whitethroat** *Sylvia curruca blythi*

One at the Snook (Holy Island) on 31st was the only report (ADM).

**Whitethroat** *Sylvia communis*

Three family parties totalling ten birds were at Tynemouth on 28th (CB). Further family parties were noted at Cocklawburn (four birds), Corbridge (four), Derwent Reservoir (two) and Newbiggin GC (five). Six + were noted at Druridge Pools on 22nd, five at West Hartford, four at Northumberlandia and three at Bamburgh and Bondicarr. Two were at Holywell Pond and singles at a further seven localities including migrants at Exhibition Park on 14th-15th and Holy Island on 31st.



Two photographs by Colin Bradshaw from Druridge  
Top: a Willow Warbler and below: a Sedge Warbler

**Grasshopper Warbler** *Locustella naevia*

The Cramlington study area produced reeling birds from up to 25 territories during the year, of which there were a minimum of seven in the Arcot Pond area and seven at West Hartford, where birds were heard to 6th August (STH/PJA/LJM/DM/JM/GM). Reeling birds were reported from East Chevington on 1st, Druridge Pools on 3rd-4th, and Backworth Pond on 24th. Another single was ringed at East Chevington on 8th.

**Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

A total of 159 were ringed at East Chevington over three dates (78 on 8th / 48 on 25th / 33 on 27th – IF). A group of nine at Holy Island Lough on 14th included some juveniles, possibly bred on site or perhaps passing migrants (IK). Eight + were at Cresswell Pond on 1st (MSH), a total of six were trapped and ringed at Bamburgh over three dates, a pair with two newly fledged juveniles were at Yarrow Haugh on 2nd (BWG), two were at Linton Ponds on 3rd and two (including a juvenile) were at Haughton Strother GP (Humshaugh) on 6th. Singles at a further five sites include an adult with food at Foxton Hall on 7th.

**Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

A total of 70 were ringed at East Chevington over three dates (37 on 8th / 18 on 25th / 15 on 27th – IF). Three were at Gosforth Park NR on 2nd and a single was singing at Cresswell Pond from 1st-6th.

**Nuthatch** *Sitta europaea*

One to two were at Alnwick, Capheaton Lake, Eshott, Hareshaw Burn, Holywell Dene and Walbottle.



**Treecreeper** *Certhia familiaris*

Two were at Alnwick Cemetery and singles at Big Waters and Whittle Dene Reservoirs.

**Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes*

The only record was a single at Walbottle on 10th (KR/LR).

**Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*

1,000 had gathered at East Chevington by 27th (IF), 440 were at Cocklawburn on 22nd (MHu) and 250 at Big Waters on 15th (GB). Flocks of 100 were at Beacon Hill (Cramlington) on 20th and at Whitley Bay on 5th with 20-30 also reported from Alnwick, Cullercoats and Otterburn. The highest monthly count from a Walbottle garden was 11 on 31st.

**Dipper** *Cinclus cinclus*

Three at Corbridge may have included young (RB/MB), while singles were also reported from near Humshaugh (juvenile), Holywell Dene and Usway Burn.

**Blackbird** *Turdus merula*

42 roosted at Waren Mill on 22nd (CGK/GPK) and 17 were in a single Rowan tree at Holywell Dene on 17th (RJP). Another Rowan crop in an Old Hartley garden attracted up to eight during the month and eight were at Alnwick on 19th. One to three were at a further three localities.

**Song Thrush** *Turdus philomelos*

The apparent demise of this once common species was highlighted by the two reports received this month. Both were of single birds in gardens, with comments as follows; at Old Harley - the first seen for a very long time (RJP) and at Walbottle - the first for over a year (KR/LR).

**Mistle Thrush** *Turdus viscivorus*

A flock of 32 was at Airy Holm Reservoir (Shotleyfield) on 26th (IFo). At Linden Hall there were counts of 23 on 3rd and 11 on 24th (NFO), 18 were near Forestburngate on 27th (ADMc) and 13 at Derwent Reservoir on 8th (IFo). Seven to nine were reported from Exhibition Park, Hethpool and Roddam and five from Grindon Lough and the Otterburn Ranges.

**Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata*

A successful second brood of three fledglings left the nest in a Stamfordham garden on 16th and were last seen on 27th (EC). Five, including juveniles were at Mootlaw Quarry (Ryal) on 10th (ALT), an adult and two juveniles were near Humshaugh on 12th (MR) and an adult and a juvenile were noted at Linden Hall. Three migrants were at Holy Island on 14th (IK) and single passage birds at Exhibition Park on 14th-15th and Big Waters on 25th. Elsewhere two were at West Hartford on 23rd and singles at Derwent Reservoir, Longhorsley Moor and Wooler.



A second brood of Spotted Flycatchers nesting against Eddie Crabtree's house wall  
Stamfordham on 15th August by Tim Dean

**Robin** *Erithacus rubecula*

There were 11 at Prestwick Carr on 22nd (PCF). Eight were on Holy Island on 31st and up to five in an Old Hartley garden during the month. The only other reports were four at Whitley Bay Cemetery on 24th and up to two in a Walbottle garden.

**Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Three passage birds were at Holy Island on 28th and two on 30th (TF/JFa/IK) and another at Tynemouth on 28th (DRW). Results from nest boxes at Dipton were as follows;

Pairs	Eggs laid	Young fledged	Observer
6	40	35	SWA

**Redstart** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Singles were at Derwent Reservoir on 12th (IFo) and a juvenile at Prestwick Carr on 24th (PCF).

Results from nest boxes at Dipton were as follows;

Pairs	Eggs laid	Young fledged	Notes	Observer
2	12	12	First to breed in nest boxes for at least 13 years	SWA

**Whinchat** *Saxicola rubetra*

The only report from inland breeding areas was a male and three juveniles at Usway Burn (Upper Coquetdale) on 5th (TRD/JD). Two were at Bradford Kaims on 31st, Budle Point on 26th, Cocklawburn on 22nd, St Mary's Island on 8th and 20th and Tynemouth on 14th. Singles were at Cresswell Pond on 25th, Druridge Pools on 22nd-23rd, East Chevington on 25th and 31st, Haughton Strother (Humshaugh) on 13th, Holy Island on 19th, 27th and 31st, Newcastle (Town Moor) on 18th, Tynemouth on 14th and 18th and Snab Point on 24th.

Top: a juvenile Whinchat on Newcastle Town Moor by Graeme Bowman on 18th August and bottom: a Wheatear at Usway Burn on 5th August by Janet Dean

**Stonechat** *Saxicola rubicola*

Inland breeding was reported from Simonside where a pair and four young were noted on 9th (ASJ) and at Addycombe Moor where two adults and two juveniles was the first confirmed breeding record in the Rothbury area for four years (TRD/JD). On the coast up to six were at Druridge Pools during the month (GB), five at Bamburgh GC on 26th and four at Buston Links on 3rd and at Cocklawburn on 22nd. Two to three were noted at Cresswell Pond, Druridge Bay CP, East Chevington, St Mary's Island and Tynemouth headland and singles at Newbiggin and Warkworth Gut.

**Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe*

There were eight at Newcastle (Town Moor) on 14th (GB), six at St Mary's Island on 30th and four at Usway Burn (Upper Coquetdale) on 5th. Three were at Holy Island on 14th and two were reported from Cresswell Pond on 23rd, Derwent Reservoir on 14th, Simonside on 9th, Tynemouth on 14th and Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 20th. Single birds were noted at a further six coastal localities.



**Dunnoek** *Prunella modularis*

One to four visited an Old Hartley garden all month (RJP). Two were in a Walbottle Garden on 10th and Whitley Bay Cemetery on 24th, with a single at Druridge Pools on 3rd.

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*

Some large flocks were noted this month with a large flock of 400+ at St. Mary's Wetland on 2nd(JPD/MPF/AS) with 375 there on 15th (ASJ), 200 were feeding in a barley crop at Chare Ends (Holy Island) on 12th (IK) and 150 at Elwick, 120 at Fenham le Moor, and 100 at Holy Island Village on 24th (ASJ). Also, 100 were at Boulmer on 24th (RB/MB). 54 at Beacon Hill (Cramlington) on 12th (PCF). Also in Cramlington, a maximum of 49 were in a Northburn garden on 19th (LJM) and in a garden at Marden Estate (Tynemouth) 45 were present all month (ASJ). Ca.40 were noted at Amble on 16th and three in a Walbottle Garden on 24th.

**Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus*

A large flock of 102 was seen at Haughton Strother Gravel Pits on 22nd (MR). 43 were at Hauxley on 31st (HRS). 23 were observed flying S at East Chevington on 27th (IF). In a Walbottle garden, 11 including juveniles were noted on 31st(KR/LR). Elsewhere, one to five were at nine sites in the county during the month.

**Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava*

The monthly maximum count was 17, including 2 ringed at East Chevington on 25th (IF). Observed at Cresswell Pond on many dates during the month, with six noted on 1st and 4th,(MSH/NFO) increasing to 11, then 14 birds on 5th (NFO/PRM), with five seen on 22nd declining to two by 30th. Elsewhere, 12 were at East Chevington on 22nd (IF), nine at Haughton Strother (Humshaugh) on 12th and 25th (MR), eight at Whittle Dene on 20th (SR), seven including five juveniles at Druridge Pools on 4th (CBD). An adult with two fledged young at Beal Point (Lindisfarne) on 13th (IK). three were also noted at Druridge Pools on 5th and East Chevington on 8th (IF). Elsewhere, one to two were seen at 12 other sites during the month.



A Yellow Wagtail enjoys the sunshine  
Druridge Pools  
Colin Bradshaw

**Citrine Wagtail** *Motacilla citreola*

One, a juvenile, was observed and digiscoped feeding with Pied Wagtails at Grindon Lough by a lucky observer on the evening of the 9th (PRM).

**Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*

Nine were at Whittle Dene on 12th and six at Haughton Strother (Humshaugh) on 22nd (SR/MR). Four seen at Allen Banks on 24th (MJC). One to three were at 12 further sites during the month.

**Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla alba*

Several large flock counts were made towards the month's end, with a maximum of 36 at Bothal Pond on 29th (TF/JFa). 34 were at Whittle Dene on 26th(SR), 32 at Flagstaff Park (Berwick) on 31st (MHu), 26 at Grindon Lough on 27th, with 21 there on 24th (SJH). 25, mostly juveniles, were feeding on a playing field at Longhorsely on 30th (AB/LB), 20 at Lynemouth on 23rd (GB). At Grindon, 19 present on 22nd, with 16 remaining on 26th(SJH). The peak count this month was of 17 were at Seghill Flash on 9th.(JPD). Earlier in the month, 14 juveniles observed at Foxton Hall on 7th(AB/LB). The same number at West Hartford on 20th(STH). One to twelve were at a further eleven widespread sites.

**Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis*

A passage individual was seen at Swallow Pond on 25th (JPD).

**Meadow Pipit** *Anthus pratensis*

222 were counted moving SW in 80 minutes at East Cramlington LNR on 31st (STH). During the final week of the month, 30 were at East Chevington, Hedgehope and Grindon(IF/IRD/SJH). 20 noted at Marden Quarry, Whitley Bay and Grindon. 15 were at two Cramlington sites, Northumberlandia on 24th and West Hartford on 31st and ten were noted at Reaveley on 16th (JMA). At Newcastle Town Moor, on 14th, an adult was observed carrying food and a faecal sac indicating breeding activity (GB).

**Rock Pipit** *Anthus petrosus*

Three birds were seen at Rockcliffe (Whitley Bay) on 25th one of which was ringed. Two noted at Blyth South Harbour on 20th, St. Mary's Island and Tynemouth on 20th (MHS/ASJ) and singles during the month at Cullernose Point, Rockcliffe (Whitley Bay) and Cullercoats.

**Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs*

150 were at feeders near Greenhaugh on an unseasonal cold, wet day on 13th (MD). Ten were near Bellingham on 6th and two were ringed at Hauxley during the month.(HRS). 11 were at Howdon on 28th (CB). Seven and six were in gardens at Walbottle and Old Hartley respectively.

**Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Ten at Prestwick Carr on 23rd was the monthly highest count and a family party of five was noted here on 22nd (PCF). Two to six visited an Old Hartley garden throughout the month and five seen at Grindon on 24th (SJH). Eight were at Swallow Pond on 25th (JPD) and a pair at Thrunton on 7th (JMA). A single was ringed at Hauxley on 3rd (HRS). Four were at Walbottle and Linden Hall during the month. A male accompanied a juvenile in Marden Quarry (Whitley Bay) on 31st (KWY) and a single was at Howdon on 4th.

**Greenfinch** *Chloris chloris*

24 were at Howdon on 28th (CB). One to five noted at five other sites this month.

**Linnet** *Carduelis cannabina*

Two large flocks were found this month with 220 at Brada Quarry (Bamburgh) on 23rd and 120 at St. Mary's on 25th (CGK/GPK/ASJ). Elsewhere, 55 at East Chevington on 7th (AJH) was notable, with one to six at three further sites.

A cock Linnet at  
Druridge  
Colin Bradshaw

**Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*

A large flock of 200 was at Swallow Pond on 6th and 14th, with 150+ there on 21st (JPD/MPF). 15 were at Blakelaw Farm, Bellingham on 6th and 25 at Thrunton Wood on 7th. (JMA).

**ESCAPES, HYBRIDS AND BIRDS OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN****Escapes****Bar-headed Goose** *Anser indicus*

The group of seven seen last month at Derwent Reservoir were located first this month at nearby Airy Holm Reservoir on 1st (IFo) where four were present with the other three still at Derwent Reservoir. The next day all seven were at Airy Holm Reservoir before presumably departing to Hauxley where they had previously been found in June. They were first seen there on 14th and stayed to 23rd (CDB/ GB/ HRS / JSB).





**Canary** *Serinus sp*

A domestic escape was found at Hadston Carrs on 16th (CDB).



The Canary photographed at Hauxley  
Chris Barlow

**Hybrids**

**Canada Goose x Greylag Goose** *Branta canadensis x Anser anser*

One was seen at Hauxley on 16th (CDB).

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Bamburgh Ringing Station, Hauxley Ringing Station, Natural History Society of Northumbria, Seaton Sluice Watch Tower.

**Apologies for any accidental omissions****BULLETIN COMPILATION AND PRODUCTION**

This bulletin was compiled by Graeme Bowman (Mute Swan to Ruddy Duck), Lindsay McDougall (Red Grouse to Black-necked Grebe), Trevor Blake (Honey-buzzard to Crane), Steve Holliday (Avocet to Godwit) Ian Forsyth (Turnstone to Skua), Eddie Crabtree (Puffin to Great Black-backed Gull), Tim Dean (Escapes, Hybrids and Unknown Origin, List of Contributors, Highlights), Peter Fletcher (Feral Pigeon to Red-rumped Swallow), Mike Richardson (Cetti's Warbler to Pied Flycatcher), Alan Jack (Duncock to Corn Bunting), Dan Turner (WeBS Coastal Counts) and Steve Holliday (WeBS Inland Counts). Thanks to David Sanders of NNBC for providing data.

Proof reading was by Mike Smith.

Edited by Steve Barrett [NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com](mailto:NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com)

Mail distribution by Paul Stewart.

**RECORD SUBMISSION**

Please email [ntbcorg@gmail.com](mailto:ntbcorg@gmail.com) for a copy of the standard spreadsheet and other details.

Location names and grid references: The use of standard location names and the include grid references as this greatly increases the value of records in subsequent analyses. A 1km square grid reference is the ideal e.g. NY8067 for Grindon Lough, but 2km square references (tetrads) are also acceptable e.g. NY86D in this case. A list of localities and their tetrad grid references (tetrad/Locality List) can be downloaded from the 'Resources & Downloads' section of the Club website at <http://www.ntbc.org.uk> – the use of these names, wherever possible, would be highly appreciated.

Could club members ensure they to submit records direct to NTBC rather than just Birdtrack. There may be an assumption by some members this happens automatically. We do not want to miss records.

## PHOTOGRAPHS AND ILLUSTRATIONS

Please keep submitting your articles, photographs, sketches and illustrations for the bulletin. Thanks again to those who have supplied the excellent photographs. Please send to Steve Barrett at [NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com](mailto:NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com)

It is preferable if you re-size your photos before sending and a suggested size is 640 x 480 pixels. Please ensure you include the following information with your submissions: name, species, date taken, locality.

Photographs will not be used elsewhere without the photographer's permission.

## MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Membership costs £30 per year. For membership enquiries please contact [ntbc@jobentley.plus.com](mailto:ntbc@jobentley.plus.com)

## NTBC WEB SITE

The Club website is an excellent resource for all interested in birds in the north-east. There are numerous interesting sections, including a photograph gallery, site information and trip reports together with extensive reference information for birding in our area. Please submit any new content for the website to the main club email address at \*\*\*\*\*

New words from Paul Buskin

## NTBC SIGHTINGS PAGE

The Sightings Page contains current reports by members. Access is from the NTBC website and an email notification is available for new postings.

Members need to submit a request to be added to the website, specifying the email address they wish to post from before they can submit sightings to [ntbcorg@gmail.com](mailto:ntbcorg@gmail.com)

## COUNTY RECORDS COMMITTEE

Colin Bradshaw will complete his two year spell on the committee in December 2014 having filled in for David Steel's last two years due to work commitments. Hence there will be a vacancy on the CRC to be filled. Please could anyone wishing to apply to join the committee let the County Recorder Tim Dean know, either by email or letter. Applicants need to have a comprehensive knowledge of Northumberland's bird life and will be required to attend four meetings a year to verify sightings in the county. It is envisaged that applicants will need to access online documents and have email access. A brief resume of birding credentials and experience should be forwarded when applying. This year there will be a cut off date for applications of 15th November.

Tim Dean  
2, Knocklaw Park  
Rothbury  
NE65 7PW

## NORTHUMBERLAND WeBS -VACANT ROLES

Would you care to coordinate the Wetland Bird Surveys for coastal Northumberland?

The role involves:

- coordination with Northumberland surveyors and the BTO
- preparation of monthly and annual reports for the Northumberland & Tyneside Bird Club

Following ten years in the roles of assistant coordinator and coordinator, Dan now needs time to concentrate on other matters.

- There is a coastal section in need of a monthly surveyor please:

Budle Point to Seahouses

Richard Poyer has stepped down from this section after a marvellous spell of six years. He does however continue with surveys of two other coastal sections.

For either of these positions – please contact Dan Turner for further details:

(Tel: 0191 257 6680

email: [dan.m.turner@btinternet.com](mailto:dan.m.turner@btinternet.com))

## TELESCOPE AND BINOCULARS FOR SALE

Swarovski EL 8.5 x 42 Swarobright Binoculars. Excellent, near mint condition, Lenses superb. Include padded strap, lens caps, rain-guard and case. £ 890 ( £1,715 new cost for replacement model)

Leica Apo Televid Telescope, excellent condition. Fluorite/HD lenses. Includes 20x extra wide angle eyepiece as new condition. Waterproof stay on case. £695. Also 20-60x Zoom eyepiece available, as new condition at £190.

Tel. 07780691593 or 01912527686. Alan Jack



## COASTAL WeBS COUNTS: NORTHUMBERLAND

JULY 2014

MHu M. Hutcheson  
TB T. BrewisAC A. Craggs  
RP R. Poyer  
MLC M. L. Cadwallender  
TAC T. A. CadwallenderMGA M. G. Anderson  
LJM L. J. McDougall  
DMT D. M. Turner

Site	TOTAL	Berwick North Shore (including Little Beach)	Tweed Estuary	Tweed: A1 By-Pass to Horncliffe	Spittal - Cocklawburn	Lindisfarne NNR (including Budle Bay)	(Budle Bay)	Budle Pt - Seahouses	Seahouses - Beadnell	A1n Estuary	Alnmouth South	Coquet Estuary	Cresswell - Newbiggin	Blyth Estuary	Tyne North Pier - Fish Quay
Counter		MHu	MHu	TB	MHu	AC	AC	RP	MLC	TAC	RP	RP	MGA	LJM	DMT
Date		11	9	13	10	13	13	17	12	11	14	14	14	14	27
Red-throated Diver	0														
Little Grebe	3					3									
Great Crested Grebe	1		1												
Cormorant	136	12	10	2	5	6		11	31		17	4		20	18
Shag	2	2													
Grey Heron	44		19	9	1	5			1	8			1		
Mute Swan	303		280	3		4	2			4		7		5	
Greylag Goose	2				2										
Canada Goose	21		7							14					
Shelduck	215					189	70			14		12			
Wigeon	1					1									
Teal	12					11								1	
Mallard	178		12	64		37	15		1	24		8		32	
Tufted Duck	4					4									
Eider	1,177	34	4		85	417	15	225	155	12	162	47	12	15	9
Common Scoter	288				88	200									
Goldeneye	1				1										
Red-breasted Merganser	24					24	2								
Goosander	629	452	54	3	102				8	5				5	
Moorhen	6					2						4			
Coot	4					4									
Oystercatcher	661	26	16		46	304	55	15	121	64	2	2	50	5	10
Ringed Plover	74				2	54							1	17	
Golden Plover	160												160		
Grey Plover	10					1						9			
Lapwing	286		2	20	10	61				91		102			
Knot	2					2									
Sanderling	42					42	42								
Dunlin	41	3				33			1			3	1		
Black-tailed Godwit	4		4												
Bar-tailed Godwit	86					86									
Whimbrel	28					22			5	1					
Curlew	1,278		62		4	931	15		15	221		13	3	26	3
Redshank	302		15	1	2	57	22		34	9		37	14	126	7
Greenshank	8					1				7					
Common Sandpiper	19		1							18					
Turnstone	50					32			16						2
Black-headed Gull	1,345	223	28	27	32	572	140		133	94				79	157
Common Gull	118	8			3	103				4					
Lesser Black-backed Gull	151	3	13	2		65			38					29	1
Herring Gull	2,171	135	586	16	34	381			147	24				102	746
Great Black-backed Gull	148	2	11		2	34	4		42	1				1	55
Kittiwake	519	5	136		18				355					1	4
Sandwich Tern	1,057	12	780		48	174			3	4				8	28
Common Tern	50					12				5				21	12
Arctic Tern	400		260		3	51			86						
Little Tern	12								12						
Kingfisher	0														
<b>ADDITIONAL SPECIES</b>															
Little Egret	10		4			5						1			
Ruddy Shelduck	2		2												
TOTALS - WILDFOWL	3,051	500	387	81	284	907	104	236	196	81	179	82	13	78	27
- WADERS	3,051	29	100	21	64	1,626	134	15	192	411	2	166	229	174	22
- GULLS & TERNS	5,971	388	1,814	45	140	1,392	144	0	816	132	0	0	0	241	1,003

## COASTAL WeBS COUNTS: NORTHUMBERLAND

RP R. Poyer

MGA M. G. Anderson

235

AUGUST 2014

MHu M. Hutcheson

MLC M. L. Cadwallender / W. Dickson

RC R. Chilton

TB T. Brewis

TAC T. A. Cadwallender

LJM L. J. McDougall

ACra A. Craggs

AB A. Brunt

DMT D. M. Turner

Site	TOTAL	Berwick North Shore (including Little Beach)	Tweed Estuary	Tweed: A1 By-Pass to Horncliffe	Spittal - Cocklawburn	Lindisfarne NNR (including Budle Bay)	(Budle Bay)	Budle Pt. - Seahouses	Seahouses - Beadnell	Boulmer - Alnmouth	Aln Estuary	Coquet Estuary	Cresswell - Newbiggin	Newbiggin - Cambois	Blyth Estuary	Tyne North Pier - Fish Quay	East Howdon, (north bank only)
Counter		MHu	MHu	TB	MHu	ACra	ACra	RP	MLC	AB	TAC	RP	MGA	RC	LJM	DMT	DMT
Date		10	7	10	8	10	10	11	20	7	7	12	14	10	12	27	29
Red-throated Diver	1					1											
Little Grebe	2					2											
Cormorant	237	23	11	13	30	32			31	12	4	16		5	23	21	16
Shag	14	4			4			6									
Grey Heron	60	3	32	4	2	6				2	4	6		1			
Mute Swan	435		360	33	2	5	2				7	18			10		
Greylag Goose	146		124	22													
Canada Goose	18		17								1						
Shelduck	132					69	8			15	14	28			6		
Wigeon	10					8					2						
Gadwall	2					2	2										
Teal	136					130	2			2		4					
Mallard	310		4	93		110	30		1		84	18					
Tufted Duck	5					5											
Eider	678	16	2		82	278	13	58	86	55		38	25	35	1	2	
Common Scoter	288				288												
Goldeneye	4				1	3											
Red-breasted Merganser	32					22			4	6							
Goosander	437	156	135	15	128						1				2		
Moorhen	15			2		2					5	6					
Coot	5					4					1						
Oystercatcher	1,063	34	24		146	322	65	42	234	95	14	15	75	23	22	17	
Ringed Plover	153	2			44	41			9	6			40		11		
Golden Plover	641					641											
Grey Plover	13					12									1		
Lapwing	999		64		134	426					223	112			40		
Knot	36					18		2				3	13				
Sanderling	46					19							27				
Dunlin	612					421	3		2	53	2	96	28		10		
Snipe	2					2											
Black-tailed Godwit	26				3										23		
Bar-tailed Godwit	469					466	1		2				1				
Whimbrel	21	1			5	15											
Curlew	1,172	14	98		8	949	12		14	5	20	18	2	3	37	4	
Spotted Redshank	1					1											
Redshank	1,238	4	138		10	332	105	25	43	76	95	170	33	11	270	17	14
Greenshank	8	1	2			3					2						
Common Sandpiper	8			1		1					6						
Turnstone	197	2				4		28	81	65			9		2	5	1
Black-headed Gull	2,401	16	287	190	34	647	173		7		447				322	163	288
Common Gull	599		8	285	3	300	13		1		2						
Lesser Black-backed Gull	58	1	7			23			5						20	2	
Herring Gull	2,508	52	820	130	48	648	62		195		2				132	478	3
Great Black-backed Gull	117	5	15	2	1	3			57						2	32	
Kittiwake	122	8							114								
Sandwich Tern	228	7	84		44	90			3								
Common Tern	19					3									16		
Arctic Tern	167		3			162			2								
Little Tern	17					17											
Kingfisher	1			1													
ADDITIONAL SPECIES																	
Little Egret	25		1			17	2				3	3			1		
TOTALS - WILDFOWL	2,967	202	685	182	537	679	57	64	122	92	123	134	25	41	42	23	16
- WADERS	6,705	58	326	1	350	3,673	186	95	387	300	362	414	228	37	416	43	15
- GULLS & TERNS	6,236	89	1,224	607	130	1,893	248	0	384	0	451	0	0	0	492	675	291



INLAND WEBS COUNTS: NORTHUMBERLAND

Year: 2014

Month: AUGUST

Version: Interim

Site	TOTAL										Aly Holm Reservoir										Arcot Pond										Big Waters										Bothal Pond										Branton GP										Broomlee Lough										Castron										Castle Island										Druridge Pools										East Chevington										Greenlee Lough										Grindon Lough										Haukley NR										Hedgeley GP										Killingworth Lake										Leazes Park										Linton Pond										Longhirst Flash										Moms' House Pool										Shield on the Wall										Swallow Pond										West Stobswood										Widdington Moor										Woodhorn Flashes																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																															
	IFO	LJM	GB	TD	KD	MRS	PT	STH	IDR	JL	MRS	JL	MRS	IF	KD	LJM	DM	CH	TD	RP	MRS	SPP	JL	JL	JOS																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																							
Date	10	10	13	15	10	NC	9	2		9	9	9	9	14	10	10	1	24	15	11	9	NC	9	9																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																								</

# Northumberland and Tyneside Bird Club

Registered Charity No. 517641

<http://www.ntbc.org.uk/>

**Bulletin 2014 No 9**

**MONTHLY SUMMARY – SEPTEMBER**

**5th November 2014**



## CONTENTS

Classified List Highlights

Committee News

Field Trips

Indoor Meetings

Classified List

WeBS Coastal

WeBS Inland

Seaton Sluice Watch Tower new keys

Subscriptions were due from 1st October

Writer for Bulletin Grouse to Grebes needed.

Blue-winged Teal  
Castle Island  
John Littleton  
10th September



## CLASSIFIED LIST HIGHLIGHTS

Snow Goose	One at Beal Point on 24th.
Blue-winged Teal	A juvenile was located at Castle Island on 6th and stayed all month.
Ferruginous Duck	One reported at Exhibition Park on 24th.
Cory's Shearwater	Single past Seaton Sluice on 14th.
Fea's / Zeno's Petrel	One was multi-observed on 21st with sightings in the county from nine locations !
Little Egret	New record county total of 19 at Fenham on 8th.
Great White Egret	One at Prestwick Carr on 1st.
Pectoral Sandpiper	Record county total of three at Grindon Lough with another on Holy Island.
Marsh Sandpiper	One reported at Low Newton scrape on 9th.
Long-tailed Skua	Several sightings during month.
Little Auk	Two early sightings. Singles at Annstead Pt on 21st and Newbiggin on 24th.
Sabine's Gull	Several sightings along coast.
Woodchat Shrike	One at Prestwick Carr on 1st. Unusually two sightings in one year.
Greenish Warbler	One was well observed on Holy Island from 14th to 19th.
Barred Warbler	Several sightings this month.
Siberian Lesser Whitethroat	One showing characteristics of this race at Alnmouth on 6th.
Siberian Stonechat	One showing well near Holy Island Lough from 15th to 21st.
Red-breasted Flycatcher	Influx during month.

## FIELD TRIPS

The next of Steve Anderson's popular field trips is to the **East Lothian Coast** on **16th November**

Any members who are interested in any of the above field trip please email Steve Anderson [seaswan@btinternet.com](mailto:seaswan@btinternet.com)

## INDOOR MEETINGS

NTBC indoor meetings are held at Northern Rugby Club, McCracken Park, Great North Road, Newcastle, NE3 2DT starting at 7.00pm and generally finish between 9.00pm-9.30pm.

The next meeting of the 2014-2015 season is on **13th November**

## Science on Swan Lake – 50 years of WWT's Bewick's Swan research and a year in the life of a Whooper Swan researcher

Kane Brides – WWT Species Conservation Scientist.

## CLASSIFIED LIST

The following account consists of unchecked reports. The species/subspecies marked \* require descriptions.

A complete list of all sightings that need notes is included in the NTBC website [www.ntbc.org.uk](http://www.ntbc.org.uk) under the County Records Committee section and in Birds in Northumbria 2012 page 236.



The Inland and Coastal Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) tables are at the rear of the bulletin. These contain counts additional to those in the Classified List.

### **Mute Swan** *Cygnus olor*

Peak counts were 112 at the Tweed Estuary on 5th (MHu), 31 at Killingworth Lake on 11th (LJM), 23-30 at Big Waters (GB) and Castle Island (DM), and 18 at Gosforth Park NR. Eight to nine were Bothal Pond, the Coquet Estuary, Hauxley Reserve and Newcastle Leazes Park, and two to three at six further sites, including Berwick North Shore.

### **Whooper Swan** *Cygnus cygnus*

Eight flew S at Warkworth Gut on 30th (JPD/AWS).

### **goose (sp.)**

A large goose (sp.) was at Hauxley Reserve on three dates between 11th-29th (PCF/HRS).

### **Pink-footed Goose** *Anser brachyrhynchus*

The first of the month were on 13th when ten flew S at Prestwick Carr (PCF) and two+ heard flying over Cresswell at 23.30 while the observers were unsuccessfully looking for the Northern Lights! (TF/JFa), followed by 200 over Beadnell, Branton and Low Newton (JPL/IBDa/KDa), and nine S at Tynemouth (DRW) on 14th. Ten to 36 were at/over Budle Bay, Chapel House (Newcastle) and Hoppen Kiln between 17th-20th; 200 flew S at Marden Quarry on 21st (KWY); 430 were at Holy Island (per NNBC) and 132 at Budle Bay (BRS) on 22nd; 500 were over Yearle (SVM) on 23rd; 560 moved over Tarsset, 300-400 were at/over Budle Bay and Shiellow Woods (MJC/GPK) and 100-120 flew S/in off the sea at Bamburgh (MJC), Newbiggin (TRC) and Plessey Woods (TB) on 24th; 600 were at East Chevington (IFo), and 140-250 at Druridge Pools and Felton Lane (TB) on 26th; 285 flew W at Cocklawburn (MHu) and 200 S at Cresswell Pond (JPD/MPF) on 30th. A total of 631 flew S at St Mary's between 22nd-27th (JPD/MPF/ASJ) and 238 flew S at Seaton Sluice between 21st-29th (SSWT), when parties of 40-89 were noted at/over Alnwick, Annstead, Bedlington, Berwick, Chapel House, Cramlington, East Ord, Ellington, Gosforth Park NR, Morpeth, Newbiggin, Tynemouth, and Warkworth Gut and one to 25 at six further, mainly coastal, sites.

### **Greylag Goose** *Anser anser*

A total of 400 flew S at Lanehead (Tarsset) on the morning of 23rd (MD) and 30 flew N at Ellington on 24th (TB). Peak concentrations were 327 at Hauxley Reserve on 29th (HRS), 250 at Low Newton flash on 8th (TD), 229 at Widdrington Moor Lake on 24th (MSH), 208 at Haughton Strother GP on 23rd (MR), 135-180 at Bothal Pond (TF/JFa), Holywell Dene (RJP), Hoppen Kiln (CGK/GPK) and Whittle Dene Reservoirs (SR), and 86 at Yarrow Slake (MHu). Counts of 13-35 came from Cresswell Pond, Grindon Lough and Killingworth Lake, while one to eight were at Castle Island, Seaton Sluice and Tynemouth.

### **Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis*

Largest counts were 469 at Bothal Pond on 12th (TF/JFa), 150 at East Chevington on 6th (JMA), 140 at Hauxley Reserve on 11th (HRS), and 29-50 at Castle Island (DM)/STH, Ellington (TB), Holywell Dene (RJP), Newcastle Leazes Park (DM), New Water Haugh (River Tweed; MHu) and the Tweed Estuary (MHu), while five were at Grindon Lough.

### **Barnacle Goose** *Branta leucopsis*

An estimated 6,000 passed through Lindisfarne NNR in the latter half of the month (IK). All other records were between 21st-30th. About 6,000 were at Beal Point (Lindisfarne NNR) on 24th (AC/GW *et al.*), and 2,400-2,500 were at Budle Bay on 22nd (BRS/GPK/MSH) dropping to 900 by 24th (GPK) and 350 by 26th (GPK). Coastal movement was conspicuous on 22nd, when at least 1,350 flew S at St Mary's (ASJ/JPD/MPF), 660 arrived in four parties from the E and then headed NW at Bamburgh (BRS), 80 flew N and 350 S at Seaton Sluice (SSWT), and 183 mainly N at East Chevington (PCF), while 410 flew S/E at Cocklawburn on 23rd (MHu); on 24th, 170 flew S/E at Rothbury (JD), 122 NW at Prestwick Carr (PCF) and 100 SW at Chapel House (IK); 45 moved N at St Mary's on 27th (JPD/MPF); and 80 NW at Lanehead (Tarsset) on 29th (MD). Groups of 11-40 were at/over Grindon Lough, Hauxley Reserve, Howdon, Newbiggin, Seaton Sluice and Tynemouth between 21st-30th. One to two were also at Bothal Pond, Felton Lane, New Water Haugh and Widdrington Moor Lake.

### **Brent Goose** *Branta bernicla*

A total of 41 N at Seaton Sluice between 8th-19th included 40 pale-bellied *hrota* race birds and one of the dark-bellied *bernicla* race (SSWT), 31 *hrota* race birds flew N at Stag Rocks on 6th (CGK/GPK), and two to 14 (all *hrota* race where stated) flew N at Annstead Point, Bamburgh, Druridge, Newbiggin, Newton Point, Snab Point, St Mary's and Tynemouth between 14th-22nd. Numbers at Lindisfarne NNR rose from 340 (un-raced) on 7th (IBDa) to 500 (*hrota* race) by 14th (IK) to 2,950 (un-raced) by 26th (per NNBC), while about 2,300 *hrota* race birds were noted by the end of the month (IK).

### **Snow Goose** *Anser caerulescens*

One was with Barnacle Geese at Beal Point (Lindisfarne NNR) on 24th (AC/GW).

### **Shelduck** *Tadorna tadorna*

Six flew N at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT). 42 were in Budle Bay on 7th (CGK), seven were at the Blyth Estuary on 14th (STH), and five at Cresswell Pond (PRM). One to two were at Castle Island and the Tweed Estuary.

### **Mandarin** *Aix galericulata*

Seven flew over Lanehead (Tarsset) on 23rd, while three flew over on 26th (MD), and two were at Bakethin Reservoir on 25th (MD). One, possibly a drake in eclipse, was at Big Waters on 13th (GB).

**Wigeon** *Anas penelope*

A total of 426 N and five S at Seaton Sluice was well below average for September (SSWT), while 233 flew N at St Mary's between 20th-24th (JPD/MPF/ASW), 157 N at Newbiggin on 14th (TRC), and 15-26 N at Annstead Point and Tynemouth. An estimated 8,000 had returned to Lindisfarne NNR by the end of the month (IK), 360 were at Budle Bay on 22nd (CGK/GPK), 110 at Grindon Lough on 4th increased to 310 by 25th (PRM), 184 were at Big Waters on 28th (GB), and 108 at Derwent Reservoir on 17th (IFo). Counts of 55-77 came from Bothal Pond and Hauxley Reserve, while ten to 36 were at Arcot Pond, Castle Island, East Chevington, Gosforth Park NR, and Monks' House and West Stobswood Pools. One to five were at five further sites, including an unusual record of one at Newcastle Exhibition Park between 15th-25th (GB).

**Gadwall** *Anas strepera*

Hauxley Reserve held a peak of 99 on 11th (HRS), 79 were at Big Waters on 28th (GB), 68 at East Chevington on 26th (IFo), 36 at Arcot Pond on 21st (GB), and 11-16 at Bothal Pond (TF/JFa), Caistron (JD), Castle Island (PRM), Marden Quarry (AC), and Warkworth Lane Ponds (TB). Three to four were also at Gosforth Park NR and Laverock Hall Pond, and one to two at Druridge Pools, Grindon and Holy Island Loughs, and Longhirst Flash.

**Teal** *Anas crecca*

A well above average 1,541 flew N and 70 S at Seaton Sluice during the month, including a record day count for the site of 877 N on 1st (SSWT). Elsewhere, a total of 82 flew N at St Mary's between 6th-28th (JPD/MPF/AWS), 66 flew N at Newbiggin on 14th (TRC) and 30 N at Tynemouth on 20th (CB). Budle Bay held 620 by the end of the month, about 240 at Grindon Lough on 4th increased to about 580 by 16th (PRM), 500 were at East Chevington on 2nd (PHH), 293 at Derwent Reservoir on 25th (IFo), 240 at Castle Island on 25th (PRM), and 109-158 at Arcot Pond (LJM) and Hauxley Reserve (HRS). Counts of 42-55 came from Bothal Pond, Druridge Pools and Howdon, while ten to 26 were at Ellington, Gosforth Park NR, Longhirst Flash, Lynemouth, Mootlaw Quarry, the Tweed Estuary and West Stobswood Pool.

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*

28 flew E at Dinnington on 4th (PCF). Largest counts were 252 at Derwent Reservoir on 20th (IFo), 250 at Grindon Lough on 25th (JMA), 127 at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 9th (SR), and 52-80 at Arcot Pond (LJM), Big Waters (GB), Bothal Pond (TD), Castle Island (PRM), Haughton Strother GP (MR), Longhirst Flash (TD), Marden Quarry (KWW) and Newcastle Leazes Park (DM). Groups of 20-48 were at Airy Holm Reservoir, Cocklawburn and Swallow Ponds, the Coquet Estuary, Gosforth Park NR, Heighley Gate, Hauxley Reserve, Monks' House Pool, Newcastle Exhibition Park and Rothbury, and 12-15 at Newcastle Civic Centre and Exhibition Park, and the Tweed Estuary. A late breeding record involved a brood of three tiny ducklings at Newcastle Leazes Park on 1st (DM).

**Pintail** *Anas acuta*

Seven flew N at Newbiggin on 24th (TRC), and singles N at Seaton Sluice (SSWT) and Snab Point (GB/LAR) on 20th. A flock of 13 flew over Holy Island Lough on 15th (MR) and three were there on 20th (MJC/ADM), one at Grindon Lough on 4th rose to two on 5th and a peak of six on 14th (PRM), three were at Derwent Reservoir on 28th (IFo), and one to two at Airy Holm Reservoir, Budle Bay, Grindon Lough, Hauxley Reserve and Low Newton scrape.

**Garganey** *Anas querquedula*

One, previously present in July-August, at Haughton Strother GP was last seen on 2nd (MR).

**Blue-winged Teal** *Anas discors*

One, a juvenile male, was on the River Wansbeck upstream from Castle Island in the Cambois Rowing Club (Ashington) area from 6th to at least 28th (TRC/TRD/JD/CDB *et al.*).



The Castle Island Blue-winged Teal by Tim Dean on 14th September



**Shoveler** *Anas clypeata*

East Chevington held a peak of 26 on 26th (IFo), 14 were at Swallow Pond on 29th (CGK), 1 at Hauxley Reserve on 11th (HRS), ten at Holy Island Lough on 14th (ADM), and four to six at Big Waters (GB), Gosforth Park NR (NHSN) and Grindon Lough (PRM). One to two were also at Arcot and Cresswell Ponds, Castle Island and Monks' House Pool.

**Pochard** *Aythya ferina*

One flew N at Seaton Sluice on 20th (SSWT). Seven were at Haughton Strother GP on 18th and 23rd (MR), and four at Gosforth Park NR during the month (NHSN). One to two visited Big Waters, Bothal, Cresswell and Holywell Ponds, Druridge and East Stobswold Pools, Hauxley Reserve, Holy Island Lough and Killingworth Lake. More unusual was a drake briefly at Newcastle Exhibition Park on 16th (DM).

**Ferruginous Duck** *Aythya nyroca*

A drake was at Newcastle Exhibition Park on 24th (DHWB).

**Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula*

Four flew N at Seaton Sluice between 3rd-6th (SSWT). Peak gatherings were 53 at Killingworth Lake on 11th (LJM), 52 at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 22nd (SR), 32 at Holywell Pond on 16th (LJM), 32 at Newcastle Exhibition Park on 17th (GB), and 23-29 at Bothal Pond (TD), Castle Island (DM/PRM *et al.*), Druridge Pools (TRC), Haughton Strother GP (MR), Ladyburn Lake (IFo), Marden Quarry (KWY), and QEII CP Lake (IFo). Nine to ten were also at Big Waters and Cresswell Pond, and one to five at Arcot and Cocklawburn Ponds, Hauxley Reserve and Newcastle Leazes Park.

**Scaup** *Aythya marila*

Three flew N at Newbiggin on 24th (TRC), and two N at Snab Point on 28th (JL). Singles were at Cresswell Pond on 11th and 26th (MSH/PRM) and East Chevington north pool on 26th (TB).

**Eider** *Somateria mollissima*

Few reports included 50 at Budle Bay on 4th (JMA), 41 at Amble Harbour on 7th (DM/STH), 40 at Newbiggin on 16th (MN), 36 at Cheswick (MHu), and 22 at Berwick North Shore (MHu). Five to six were at the Tweed Estuary and Warkworth shore. A drake of the northern *borealis* race was at Amble Harbour on 7th (DM/STH).

**Long-tailed Duck** *Clangula hyemalis*

The sole report was of one N at St Mary's on 13th (JPD/MPF/AWS).

**Common Scoter** *Melanitta nigra*

Coastal passage involved totals of 489 N at St Mary's between 6th-28th (JPD/MPF/AWS), 486 N and 47 S at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT), 49 N and 22 S at Newbiggin on 11th and 14th (TRC/PRM), and 26 N at Tynemouth on 24th (CB). Two groups totalling 400 birds were off East Chevington on 12th (TD), while 50-150 were in Druridge Bay on 1st (AJH) and 10th (TRD/JD). A group of 160 was at Cocklawburn on 30th (MHu), and 60 were off Newbiggin on 11th (PRM). Two were at Snab Point.

**Velvet Scoter** *Melanitta fusca*

The monthly total at Seaton Sluice was an above-average 29 N and three S, including 19 N on 20th (SSWT). Most other records were of birds on active passage; totals of 11 N at St Mary's between 16th-28th (JPD/MPF/AWS), six N at Newbiggin between 14th-22nd (GB/TRC/ASH/PHH), three N at Tynemouth on 24th (CB), two N at Snab Point on 24th (TRD/JD), and one N at Annstead Point on 21st (CGK). Two flew S at Tynemouth on 14th (DRW). Singles were at Blyth Bay on 30th (LJM) and Holy Island on 22nd (per NNBC).

**Goldeneye** *Bucephala clangula*

Three females/juveniles were at Cresswell Pond on 7th (TB) and one between 6th-15th (TRD/JD/IF *et al.*). Single juveniles were noted at Budle Bay all month (CGK/GPK) and, more unusually, at Newcastle Exhibition Park between 24th-26th (GB).

**Red-breasted Merganser** *Mergus serrator*

Three flew N at Annstead Point (CGK) and one N at Newbiggin (GB) on 21st, while one moved N at Tynemouth on 24th (CB). Two were at Budle Bay on 4th (JMA) and two at Cresswell Pond on 25th (IRD).

**Goosander** *Mergus merganser*

A flock of 11 flew N at Seaton Sluice on 8th (SSWT), and a total of seven flew S at Newbiggin between 16th-24th (TRC/ADM). The Tweed Estuary held 384 on 5th; a site record (MHu), 56 were at Branton GP on 26th (IRD), and 12 at Spittal on 16th (MHu). Counts of five to nine came from Budle Bay, Catcleugh Reservoir, Holy Island, Ross, Rothbury and Warkworth, and one to three were at Berwick North Shore, Howick Haven, Mitford and Wark.

**Red-legged Partridge** *Alectoris rufa*

On 30th 100 newly released birds were seen at Brier Dene Farm (Whitley Bay) (MNC). During the month up to nine were at Newton Red House, where one fell out of a garden tree on 13th (PG). Eight were at Blindburn on 6th and three at Farnham Moor on 1st (JMA). A single was seen in foggy conditions in front of Seaton Sluice Watchtower on 20th (SSWT).

**Red Grouse** *Lagopus lagopus*

The only report was of a count of 42, mainly in pairs, noted along the path from the car park at Simonside on 27th (AB/LB).

**Black Grouse** *Tetrao tetrix*

Eight were at the traditional lek at Sinderhope (Allendale) on 22nd (AA) and three (two males) were at Barhaugh Mill on 30th (JSB/EC).

**Grey Partridge** *Perdix perdix*

The peak counts were 12 in Budle Bay on 22nd (GPK) and ten nearby at Waren Mill Caravan Park on 20th (CGK/GPK). Nine were at Alwinton on 9th (JD) and at Seaton Point (Boulmer) on 3rd (NFO). One to five were at Big Waters, Ellington, Gosforth Park NR and Newbiggin.

**Pheasant** *Phasianus colchicus*

A flock of 32 at Hartley West Farm (Holywell Dene) on 24th were thought to be newly released birds. Up to seven birds were seen here on three dates up to 7th (RJP). Ten were at Minsteracres on 10th (JMA). Seven were in a Walbottle garden on 28th (KR/LR).

**Red-throated Diver** *Gavia stellata*

At Seaton Sluice 74 flew N and 197 S during the month with a peak count of 21 N and 119 S on 20th (SSWT). At St Mary's Island 46 flew N and 122 S during 34 hours 15 minutes of sea-watching on eight dates from 6th-28th with a peak count of 50 S and two N on 20th (JPD/MPF/AWS). On this date at Newbiggin 99 flew S and eight N in 1 hour 50 minutes (TRC). Other larger movements were 15 at Tynemouth on 25th and 11 there on 24th (CB), nine (six N) at Newbiggin on 21st (GB), eight (seven S) at Newbiggin on 14th (TRC) and eight N at Cullercoats on 25th (CGK/CB). Six flew N at Annstead Point on 21st, four flew N at Embleton Bay on 1st and four flew S at Tynemouth on 20th. Seven were off Holy Island on 22nd (NNBC). One to three were noted at Blyth Bay, Druridge, Holy Island, Meadow Haven (Berwick), Newbiggin, Newton Point, Snab Point and Stag Rocks.

**Black-throated Northern Diver** *Gavia arctica*

An adult flew N at St Mary's Island on 8th (AC) and a single flew N at Cullercoats and Tynemouth on 25th (CGK/CB).

**Great Northern Diver** *Gavia immer*

Two flew S at Snab Point on 28th (ADMc) and a single flew N at Newbiggin on 14th (TRC).

**Fulmar** *Fulmarus glacialis*

The peak count was 12 offshore at St Mary's Island after the fog cleared on 15th (PCF). One to five were noted at Alnmouth, Berwick North Shore, Druridge, Newton Point, Newbiggin, Snab Point, Spittal Bay (Newbiggin) and the Tweed Estuary. A 'blue phase' bird was noted from a pelagic trip several miles offshore in the Blyth-St Mary's Island area on 14th (GB/CGK).

**\*Fea's/Zino's Petrel** *Pterodroma feae/maderia*

One of this enigmatic species was noted at St Mary's Island at 15:15 on 21st (AC/ASJ/CB), having been tracked N flying up the coast from Flamborough Head. It was then noted at Newbiggin at 15:51 (GB/JMa/TF/JFa *et al.*) and later passing Snab Point (IK), before being watched at Annstead Point at 17:36 (CGK) and Emmanuel Head (Holy Island) at 18:15 (CDB).

**\*Cory's Shearwater** *Calonectris borealis*

One flew S at Seaton Sluice on 14th (SSWT *per* R Dack).

**Sooty Shearwater** *Puffinus griseus*

Only light N passage was noted. On 21st 42 flew N at Snab Point in two hours (IK), at least 38 flew N at Newbiggin (GB *et al.*), 27 flew N at St Mary's Island (AC), 26 flew N at Annstead Point (CGK) and eight flew N at Tynemouth. During the month only 14 were noted at Seaton Sluice in 62 hours of sea-watching (SSWT). On 20th 12 flew N at St Mary's Island (JPD/MPF/AWS), two at Tynemouth and one at Newbiggin. Four flew N at St Mary's Island on 8th(AC) and one to two were noted passing Newbiggin, Snab Point and Tynemouth on two further dates.

**Manx Shearwater** *Puffinus puffinus*

At Seaton sluice passage was above average with 611 N and 33 S in 62 hours of sea-watching. Peak movements were 239 N in 2 hours 30 minutes on 16th and 171 N on 8th (SSWT). Also on 8th at Tynemouth from 15:00-15:30 100/minute flew N dropping down to a trickle after 30 minutes (CB). At St Mary's Island 73 flew N in 1 hour 15 minutes on 8th, 29 flew N in four hours on 21st (AC), 26 flew N on 24th and 16 on 22nd (JPD/MPF/AWS). At Newbiggin 32 flew N in one hour on 16th (ASH). On 21st 20 flew N at Annstead Point (CGK) and at least 19 at Newbiggin (GB/IF). Smaller movements of one to nine were noted at the Farne Islands, Holy Island, Newbiggin, St Mary's Island and Tynemouth on eight dates from 16th-28th. At St Mary's Island rafts on the sea of 200 and 51 were noted were on 16th and 20th respectively (JPD/MPF/AWS) and at least 100 were noted from a pelagic trip off Tynemouth on 14th (CGK).

**Gannet** *Morus bassanus*

At Seaton Sluice the only large movement was 360 N on 8th in 2h 30 min (SSWT). On 17th 20 were at Newton Point and on 24th ten were at Snab Point (TRD/JD). One to five were noted at Druridge, Holy Island and Newbiggin.



**Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

At Seaton Sluice the peak movement was 22 N and three S (SSWT). The peak Blyth Harbour roost count was 129 on 6th (STH). Elsewhere peak counts were 55 at Sandstell Point (Berwick) on 16th (MHu), 53 in the Tweed Estuary on 5th (MHu), 42 at Derwent Reservoir on 20th (IFo) and Castle Island on 25th (PRM), 38 at Meadow Haven (Berwick) on 26th (MHu), 35 at North Shields Fish Quay on 5th (JMA), 32 at Amble Harbour on 16th (LJM), 27 at Berwick North Shore on 2nd (MHu) and 18 at East Chevington on 13th (STH). One to five were noted at Bakethin Reservoir, Beadnell, Big Waters, Coquet Estuary, Elswick Wharf, Gosforth Park NR, Wark and Warkworth.

**Shag** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

At Seaton Sluice during the month 27 flew N and 46 S with a peak passage of 18 N and 18 S from 1st-3rd (SSWT). At St Mary's Island 32 flew S on 24th (JPD/MPF/AWS). At Sandstell Point (Berwick) 42 were at the high tide roost (MHu). At St Mary's Island an offshore feeding flock of 37 on 6th was exceptional for this site (AC/JPD/MPF/AWS). In the Berwick area 20 were at North Shore on 2nd and 18 at Meadow Haven on 26th (MHu). Singles were noted at Druridge and Newton Point.

**Bittern** *Botaurus stellaris*

Birds were seen regularly throughout the month at Gosforth Park NR with a peak of three together on 28th (NHSN).

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*

On 8th 19 were at Fenham Flats (NNBC) and 17 regularly were in a tree roost at Fenham-le-Moor (IK). Up to 11 were seen in the Lindisfarne NNR/Budle Bay area on eight further dates. Elsewhere seven were at Castle Island on 30th (JPD/MPF/AWS) and four were at Cresswell Pond on 1st (ADMc) with up to three being seen here on 15 further dates. (many observers). Four were also in the Tweed Estuary (BWG) on 6th and on 7th at Warkworth Gut (NFO). Three juveniles were in the Blyth Estuary on 13th (AC). Elsewhere one to two were noted at Branton GP, Caistron, Coquet Estuary, Druridge Pools, Monk's House Pool and Stakeford.

**\*Great White Egret** *Ardea alba*

One flew WNW over Prestwick Carr on 1st whilst the observer was searching for the Woodchat Shrike! (ADMc).

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*

During the month at Seaton Sluice nine flew N and three S (SSWT). At Bamburgh a migrating flock of five was noted with Barnacle Geese on 22nd (BRS). One flew S at Newbiggin on 11th (PRM). The peak counts were 36 at Howdon on 27th (CB), 34 in the Tweed Estuary on 5th (MHu), 13 at North Blyth Staithes on 14th (STH) and ten at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 15th (ADH). Seven were at Berwick North Shore on 2nd (MHu), six at Derwent Reservoir on 21st (IFo), five in the Coquet Estuary on 3rd (JMA), at Arcot Pond on 6th/27th (STH/DM) and East Stobswood Pool on 26th (TB). One to four were noted at Alnmouth Station, Amble (flying over), Bakethin Reservoir, Castle Island, Elswick, Gosforth Park NR, Grindon Lough Hauxley, Holy Island, Holywell Dene, Killingworth Lake, Leazes Park (Newcastle), Wark Warkworth and Windyhaugh.



An eel meets its match. A Grey Heron at Hauxley NR by John Littleton on 10th September

**Spoonbill** *Platalea leucorodia*

Singles were noted at Castle Island on 2nd/4th/6th (PG/TRC/ADMc/GB), Cresswell Pond on 2nd (TB/ADMc/IRD) and 23rd (IRD/ADMc/PRF) and Budle Bay on 7th (CGK/GPK).

**Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

The peak counts were 21 at Hauxley NR on 29th (HRS), 19 at Big Waters on 10th (GB) and East Chevington on 13th/26th (STH/IFo), 12 at Caistron on 1st/6th (JD) and Haughton Strother GP (Humshaugh) on 8th (MR), 11 at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 22nd (SR) and Airy Holm Reservoir (Shotleyfield) on 27th (IFo), ten at Castle Island on 7th (DM/STH), nine at Branton GP on 26th (IRD) and eight at Holywell Pond on 16th (LJM). Six were at Arcot Pond on 7th and Bothal Pond on 27th, five at Warkworth Lane on 7th and Druridge Pools on 26th, and four were at Gosforth Park NR throughout the month and at Grindon Lough on 4th. One to two were noted at Budle Bay, Druridge Pools, Exhibition Park (Newcastle), Killingworth Lake, Ladyburn Lake and Newton Pool.

Additional breeding records were:-

Location	No. of Broods	No. of Young	Observer/Comments
Bothal Pond	1	3	TD on 19th
Heighley Gate Garden Centre Morpeth	1	2	LJM on 2nd

**Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps Grisegena*

At St Mary's Island singles flew S on 16th (JPD/MPF/AWS) and N on 25th (AC). The peak counts were ten at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 9th (SR), nine at Derwent Reservoir on 17th (IFo) and four at Branton GP on 26th (IRD). Two were at Caistron on 1st (JD), East Chevington on 26th (IFo), Tweed Estuary on 26th (MHu) and in Budle Bay on 27th (GPK). Singles were noted at Bothal Pond, and Widdrington Moor Lake.

**Red-necked Grebe** *Podiceps grisegena*

One flew N at St Mary's Island on 6th (JPD/AWS/TG/MPF).

**Black-necked Grebe** *Podiceps nigricollis*

One was at a site in the SE of the county on 29th.

**Red Kite** *Milvus milvus*

There was only a single record this month of two birds flying S over the Tyne at Heddon-on-the-Wall on 4th (AA).

**Harrier sp**

A single bird probably a Hen Harrier was seen flying E at The Snook (Holy Island) on 5th (MJC).

**Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*

Three juveniles were at Cresswell Pond on 7th and two were at South Pool (East Chevington) on 9th (ADMc). Single birds were at Low Newton (JEd) and East Chevington (AJH) on 1st, Caistron on 6th (JD), Widdrington Moor on 9th (ADMc), East Chevington on 14th (IRD), West Hartford on 20th (STH), Bothal Pond on 21st (ADMc), New Water Haugh (R Tweed) on 26th (BWG), Steads Burn (Widdrington) on 28th (MSH), Cresswell Pond on 30th (ADMc) and at Gosforth Park NR on an unknown date (NHSN). A cream-crowned bird with lime green wing tags was seen flying S at Budle Point on 13th, this bird was ringed in north west Norfolk (MJC).

**Hen Harrier** *Circus cyaneus*

A female was seen in the south west of the County on 16th (PRM) and a juv/female was seen between 18th – 20th on Holy Island (JD/MJC *et al.*).

**Goshawk** *Accipiter gentilis*

A single bird was noted near Humshaugh on 23rd (MR).

**Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*

A pair was at Chollerford on 6th (SW), and two birds were noted on Holy Island on 19th (MJC/ADM) and at East Cramlington LNR on 27th (STH). A pair in a Walbottle garden took a Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus* and two Collared Doves *Streptopelia decaocto* over the course of the month (KR/LR) on 21st. Single birds were noted at 22 sites during the month including a bird in a stand-off with a cat in an Alnwick garden on 13th (JMA).

**Common Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*

21 birds were in Kirkhaugh/Towsbank area on 7th (MN). Six were at Prestwick Carr on 5th (JPD/AWS) and Big Waters on 7th (GB), five were at Plennmeller Common on 30th (JSB/EC) and four were seen at Pegswood on 2nd (TB), Cresswell Pond on 7th (TB) and at Williamston Common on 30th (JSB/EC). One to three birds were at over 30 sites.

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetuss*

A single bird was on the posts at Pilgrim's Way (Holy Island) from the 4th – 7th (ADM/MJC *et al.*). Other singles were seen at Warkworth Lane on 7th (TB), Byrness on 13th (JD) and at Branton GPs on 19th (IBDa/KDa).



A Sparrowhawk eyes up Colin Bradshaw's garden in Tynemouth



**Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus*

Six birds were at Swallow Pond on 13th (JPD) and four were at Gosforth Park NR (NHSN) and at Low Newton on 9th (*per* NNBC). Two birds were either heard or seen at Arcot Pond on 6th and 22nd (STH/LJM), Big Waters on 7th (GB), Holy Island on 19th and 20th (MJC/ADM) and Swallow Pond on several dates (JPD/CGK). Single birds were also at Cresswell Pond, East Chevington, Minsteracres, Prestwick Carr and the River Wansbeck (Ashington).



A Water Rail walks past the hide at Swallow Pond by Chris Knox

**Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*

37 at Arcot Pond on 27th (DM) and 25 birds at Big Waters on 1st (GB) & Backworth Pond & on 13th (JPD/AWS); 23 at Haughton Strother GP (Humshaugh) on 2nd were the highest counts. One to sixteen birds were at Alnwick, Castle Island, Cresswell Pond, Exhibition Park (Newcastle), Gosforth Park NR, Grindon Lough, Hauxley NWT, Holywell Dene, Jesmond Dene and Leazes Park (Newcastle).



A Moorhen

Hauxley NR

by John  
Littleton

10th September

**Coot** *Fulica atra*

The highest counts were 91 birds at Killingworth Lake on 11th (LJM), 84 at Swallow Pond on 13th (JPD), 40 birds at Arcot Pond on 7th (DM) and 33 at Big Waters on 28th (GB). One to thirteen birds were also seen at Bothal Pond, Castle Island, Cresswell Pond, Exhibition Park (Newcastle), Gosforth Park NR, Grindon Lough, Haughton Strother GPs (Humshaugh), Hauxley NWT and Leazes Park (Newcastle).

**Avocet** *Recurvirostra avosetta*

Two adults and a juvenile remained in Budle Bay from 1st-7th (CGK/GPK) and a single was at Cresswell Pond on 15th (TB/TRD/JD).

**Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus*

The high-tide roost at North Blyth staithes numbered 194 on 14th (STH), 121 were counted at Berwick North Shore on 2nd (MHu) and the peak at Tynemouth was 88 on 1st (KWY). Hauxley NWT held 39 on 20th (HRS), 20 were on the Tweed Estuary on 5th (MHu) and three to 12 were also noted at Beadnell, Budle Bay and Warkworth shore.

**Golden Plover** *Pluvialis apricaria*

Increasing autumn numbers included 2,000 at Holy Island on 16th (IBDa/KDa) and at St Mary's Island some 1,400 on 11th (AC) and 23rd (MSH) increased to 1,900 on 29th (ASJ). Further large flocks included 1,000+ at Newbiggin on 30th (PHH), 520+ at Grindon Lough on 16th (PRM), 450 on rocks at Annstead Point on 21st (CGK) and 220-300 at Alnmouth (Marden Rocks), Low Newton and Pegswood. Smaller groups of 50-120 were seen at Blyth Links, Boulmer, Cheswick House and Derwent Reservoir; 30-49 at Elswick, Mootlaw Quarry, Newcastle Town Moor and Whittle Dene Reservoirs, with single figure reports made from Hauxley NWT and Warkworth Lane.

**Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*

Lindisfarne NNR held 30 on 7th (TRD/JD), ten were noted at Alnmouth on 6th (PRM) and Ross on 27th (GPK). Single birds were at Boulmer on 21st (RB/MB) and Tynemouth on 18th – the latter, a moulting adult, being the observer's 'first record for years' (CB).

**Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus*

Inland, Grindon Lough held the highest flock with c.750 on 16th (PRM) and, staying inland, 550 were noted at Haughton Strother GP on 13th (MR) and 465 at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 22nd (SR). Further good counts included 440 at Old Hartley on 11th (MNC), 412 at Bothal Pond on 13th (TF/JFa), 344 at Elswick (north bank of the Tyne at low tide) on 2nd (GB) and 325 at Castle Island on 6th (TRC). Numbers peaked at 296 at Cresswell Pond and 210 in nearby fields at St Mary's Island, and 50-160 were present at the Aln estuary, Big Waters (passed overhead), Charlton Mires Flash (north of Alnwick), Cheswick House, Coquet Estuary, Hauxley NWT and Hoppen Kiln Flash. Reports of smaller groups came from a further six sites.

**Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius*

Single juveniles were noted at Bothal Pond on 9th and Cresswell Pond on 28th (TF/JFa).

**Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*

Coastal counts included 52 at St Mary's Island on 22nd (ASJ), 38 at Cocklawburn on 30th (MHu), 30 at the Aln Estuary on 3rd (JMA) and 12-25 at Berwick North Shore, Cheswick, East Chevington beach, Tynemouth and Whitley Bay beach. One to three were also noted at Castle Island (two dates) and Hauxley.

A Ringed Plover  
St. Mary's  
Alan Jack

**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*

A total of six were noted on Fenham Flats on 8th (per NNBC), three were seen flying S at Druridge Pools on 8th and 10th (MJC) and two were at Alnmouth, Cheswick (Black Rocks) and Cresswell Pond during 2nd-6th. Singles were noted at Annstead Point, Berwick Little Beach, Bothal Pond, Cramlington, Druridge Pools, Hauxley, Holy Island and St Mary's between 5th-16th with one flying S at Tynemouth on 18th being the latest (CB).



**Curlew** *Numenius arquata*

Peak counts included 175 at the Aln Estuary on 3rd (JMA), 159 at the Long Nanny on 1st (JEd) and 119 in the high-tide roost on the Blyth Estuary on 24th (LJM). The Tweed Estuary held 46 on 5th (MHu), 45 were on Hauxley NWT on 20th (HRS), 22-32 were seen at Berwick North Shore, Cresswell Pond and St Mary's Island, whilst single-digit reports came from a further five locations.



A Curlew at Hauxley NR by John Littleton on 10th September

**Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa*

Low water levels at Castle Island attracted 23 on 6th (TRC), 16 were counted on the scrapes at Low Newton on 6th/26th with smaller numbers in between these dates (TF/JFa/AJH), 15 were at Holy Island Rocket Field Pools on 27th (IK), 13 were in Budle Bay on 7th (CGK/GPK) and ten at Warkworth Lane on 7th (TB). Further sightings of four to nine were noted on additional dates at Arcot Pond, Blyth Estuary, Budle Bay, Castle Island, Cresswell, Druridge Bay, Fenham Flats, Hauxley NWT and Holy Island Rocket Field and one to three were also seen at Cresswell Pond throughout the month.

**Bar-tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica*

St Cuthbert's Island at Holy Island held ca.200 on 7th (TRD/JD) otherwise it was single-figure reports which included seven at Beadnell on 20th (IRD), three at Cocklawburn on 19th (BWG), two at the Blyth Estuary on 6th (GB), two N at St Mary's Island on 20th (JPD/MPF/AWS) and a single at Hauxley NWT on 20th (HRS).

**Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*

The largest gatherings were of 42 at Stag Rocks on 6th (CGK/GPK), 39 at Tynemouth on 18th (CB), 37 on North Blyth staithes on 14th (STH) and 31 on Hauxley beach on 26th (IFo). The most at St Mary's was 21 on 26th and 14 were at Berwick on 16th. One to two appeared at Amble, Cocklawburn and Newbiggin.

**Knot** *Calidris canutus*

Apart from 300 at St Cuthbert's Island on 7th (TRD/JD), modest numbers were reported: 11 at St Mary's on 4th, ten at Boulmer on 14th, seven at Cresswell Pond on 6th with one to two at Berwick, Howick, Kitty Brewster and Tynemouth.

**Ruff** *Calidris pugnax*

Impressive numbers were again found at Low Newton scrape: 50 on 1st, 90 by 5th (JEd), peaks of 104 on 6th (TF/JFa) and 100+ on 7th (JPD) down to 80 on 9th, 20 by 17th and eight on 20th. Elsewhere 15 were at Druridge Pools on 3rd, peaks of 16 occurred at Castle Island on 7th, 12 at Hauxley NR on 13th and 11 at Charlton Mires flash on 12th and 26th. Eight were at Linton Pond 9th and it was present at Grindon Lough during 4th to 25th with a peak of seven on 14th. Up to five were at Cresswell Pond and Hoppen Kiln Flash, three at each of Ashington, Bothal Pond and West Hartford with one to two at Boulmer, Budle Bay, Holy Island and Tynemouth.



A Knot preens at St. Mary's  
by Alan Jack



A ruff by Jack Bucknall  
Cresswell



**Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea*

Low Newton attracted two from 1st, eight on 4th, nine on 6th, eight on 7th and four on 8th (JEd/JPD/TF/JFa *et al.*); another was there on 20th. Birds were noted throughout in Budle Bay with a peak of seven on 10th (CGK/GPK). Also present throughout at Cresswell Pond with a maximum of three on 5th (ADMc *et al.*) and two were at Fenham Flats on 8th and at St Mary's on 16th. Singles appeared at Holy Island on 6th and 29th and at Kitty Brewster on 6th.

One of those in Budle Bay on 10th was bearing a yellow flag and had been ringed in southern Norway in late August (per CGK/GPK).



A Curlew Sandpiper in the surf by Jack Bucknall

**Sanderling** *Calidris alba*

At St Mary's there were 64 on 2nd (TRC), 136 on 12th and 86 on 22nd (ASJ) and 100+ were noted at Whitley Bay on 11th (MSH). Newbiggin had 80 on 30th (PHH) and 72 were at Hauxley on 26th (IFo). Cocklawburn held 18 on 19th and small numbers were seen at Berwick and Lindisfarne.

**Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*

Around 55 were at Cresswell Pond on 11th (PRM), 25 there on 12th and lower numbers on several other dates. North Blyth staithes held 47 on 14th (STH), Castle Island regularly had 39-46 (TRC *et al.*) and 40+ were on Whitley Bay beach on 11th (MSH). The Berwick area and Hauxley beach had 14-18 at times and small numbers were noted at Haughton Strother GP, Lindisfarne, Low Newton and at Grindon Lough.



A Dunlin checks out John Littleton at Cresswell north pond

**Purple Sandpiper** *Calidris maritima*

The few records are listed in full: two N at Seaton Sluice Watch Tower on 29th; two on Inner Farne on 20th, one at Tynemouth on 18th and one at St Mary's on 26th.

**Little Stint** *Calidris minuta*

Early in the month St Mary's had two on 5th/6th (JBU/MPF *et al.*) and four on 9th (AC). One to two were present for most of the month at Cresswell Pond and also four on 19th (RB/MB/ADMc) and three on 17th and on 29th. After one on 2nd, two were at Low Newton during 4th to 9th (IBDa/KDa/JPL/JEd *et al.*). Singles were at Castle Island on 2nd, Kitty Brewster on 7th, Boulmer on 14th and inland at Grindon Lough on 25th.



A Little Stint at Cresswell  
by Jack Bucknall

**Pectoral Sandpiper** *Calidris melanotos*

At Grindon Lough a juvenile was found on 7th (PRM) then three juveniles were present during 13th to 16th (PRM/AA); two juveniles were there on 24th/25th (PRM). A juvenile flew into Cresswell Pond on 17th (ADMc) and flew N after ten minutes. One flew E, calling, over the Snook (Holy Island) on 19th (MJC/ADM).

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*

Three were at Druridge Pools on 4th (TRC) and at Castle Island on 7th (DM/STH), two were at Budle Bay on 7th and 22nd, two at Whittle Dene on 9th and two at Castle Island on 14th and 25th. Singles appeared at Cresswell Pond on three dates to 18th, at Caistron on 6th, Tynemouth on 18th/19th, Stag Rocks on 20th, Budle Bay on 23rd and at Hauxley NR on 26th.

**Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*

Five were at Castle Island on 2nd (TRC), with one there on 6th, three were at Caistron on 1st (JD) and three were at Whittle Dene on 1st and 14th (SR/AA). Two visited Branton GP on 1st and two appeared at Longhirst Flash on 7th. Singles were at Haughton Strother GP on 2nd and 8th, at Caistron on 6th and Bothal Pond on 12th.

**Spotted Redshank** *Tringa erythropus*

After one on 2nd, three were at Castle Island on 4th (TRC) with two remaining until 6th. Two were at Holy Island on 7th (SR/AH) and two at Fenham Flats on 8th (*per* NNBC); one to two were present in Budle Bay all month (CGK/GPK).

**Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*

Present throughout in Budle Bay with a peak count of nine on 7th (CGK/GPK). After two on 4th, three were at Castle Island during 6th to 8th (TRC/TF/JFa *et al.*). Several places had two: Long Nanny on 1st, Druridge Bay on 2nd, Elswick on 2nd, R Tweed Estuary on 5th; also two flew S at Druridge Pools on both 4th and 9th. Singles were reported from another 12 locations at or fairly near the coast. Further inland three were at Derwent Reservoir on 27th (IFo) and singles at Haughton Strother GP on 2nd and at Corbridge on 15th.

**Marsh Sandpiper** *Tringa stagnatilis*

One was reported at Low Newton scrape on 9th (*per* NNBC).



**Redshank** *Tringa totanus*

Around 350 were in the high tide roost at the Rocket Field Pools (Holy Island) on 12th (IK), the WeBS for the Tweed Estuary produced 224 on 5th (MHu), Tynemouth held 148 on 25th (CB), 120 were at Cresswell Pond on 12th (TD) and 111 at Elswick on 16th (GB). Hauxley NR had 83 on 10th, Howdon 48 on 17th and small numbers were found at Beadnell and Berwick.

**Jack Snipe** *Limnocryptes minimus*

Two flew in off the sea over Hauxley shore on 30th (JPD/MPF/AWS) and the same observers came across another one on the same day at Warkworth Gut salt marsh. One was picked up dead on the Longstone (Farne Islands) on 20th (*per* IRD).

**Woodcock** *Scolopax rusticola*

One flew out from beneath the hide at Cresswell Pond on 23rd (JSB/EC).

**Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*

The highest counts were of 24 at Haughton Strother GP on 13th (MR), 20+ at Stakeford on 24th (MSH), 17 at Hoppen Kiln Flash on 7th (CGK/GPK) 16 at Castle Island on 7th (DM/STH) and 15 at Low Newton scrape on 17th (TRD/JD). Peak counts at other favoured locations were as follows: 14 at both Bothal Pond and Cresswell Pond, eight at Holy Island and six at both Grindon Lough and Prestwick Carr. Small numbers were recorded at Derwent Reservoir, Gosforth Park NR, Haughton Pasture, Hauxley NR, Howdon, Shilvington and West Hartford.

**Pomarine Skua** *Stercorarius pomarinus*

Five were reported from Holy Island on 22nd (*per* NNBC). On a pelagic trip out of the Tyne three adults and a juvenile were seen flying N several miles offshore in the St Mary's-Blyth area on 14th (GB/CGK *et al.*). At St Mary's a sub-adult flew S on 16th (JPD/MPF/AWS), two adults moved N on 21st (AC) and an adult and two juveniles flew S on 22nd (JPD *et al.*). Single adults flew N past Seaton Sluice Watch Tower on 17th and 19th, a juvenile went N at Cullercoats on 22nd (CGK) and one flew N at Newbiggin on 25th (PRM).

**Arctic Skua** *Stercorarius parasiticus*

The monthly count at Seaton Sluice Watch Tower was 60 (46 N, 14 S) in a total of 62 hours' effort, the numbers described as well below average. At St Mary's 26 were noted (23 N) during 6th to 28th (JPD *et al.*) in a total of some 28 hours' effort. At Annstead Point 12 flew N on 21st (CGK), eight were at Newbiggin on 25th, six at Budle Point on 26th, four off Tynemouth on 20th (S) and five there (N) on 21st. One to two were seen from Bamburgh, Beadnell Bay, Holy Island, Howick and Snab Point.

**Long-tailed Skua** *Stercorarius longicaudus*

At St Mary's two juveniles flew N on 20th, three juveniles N on 24th and two S on 27th (JPD/MPF/AWS). Two juveniles flew N together at Seaton Sluice on 15th (MHe), a juvenile flew N at Newbiggin with an Arctic Skua on 21st (JBu) and one moving N at Tynemouth chased a Little Gull (CB).

**Great Skua** *Stercorarius skua*

At St Mary's 14 flew N during 10:00 to 15:45 on 20th (JPD/ASW) and five others were off there during 16th to 24th. A pelagic trip out of the Tyne recorded 10+ on 14th (CGK *et al.*). The monthly total of ten from Seaton Sluice Watch Tower is described as 'extremely poor'. During 20th to 24th one to three were recorded at Holy Island, Newbiggin, Snab Point and Tynemouth.

**Auk** *sp*

220 moved N in one hour at Seaton Sluice on 17th prior to which date few were recorded this month; a total of 1,500 moved N in one hour on 21st with 700 passing S in two hours on 27th (SSWT). Elsewhere a movement of 150 per hour N was counted at Annstead Point (Seahouses) on 21st (CGK) and at least 400, mainly Razorbills, were on the sea at Cresswell, Snab Point on 24th (MSH).

**Puffin** *Fratercula arctica*

The only record from Seaton Sluice was 44 N from 14th-20th (SSWT), 14 flew N at Tynemouth on 20th and two N at Newbiggin on 24th.

**Razorbill** *Alca torda*

An hour's evening sea watch at Newbiggin on 24th included five N (PRM) and four were off Holy Island on 26th (RB/MB).

**Little Auk** *Alle alle*

Single birds moving N were noted at Seahouses on 21st (CGK) and at Newbiggin on 24th (TRD/JD).

**Guillemot** *Uria aalge*

Berwick Meadow Haven held 28 on 16th (MHu), 20 were at Newbiggin on 24th (TRD/JD) and elsewhere five-12 were recorded at Berwick (Spittal Bay), Newton Point and Cresswell, Snab Point (TRD/JD/MHu).

**Little Tern** *Sternula albifrons*

Two records only, of five on Fenham Flats (Lindisfarne NNR) on 7th (IBDa) and three at Budle Point on 6th (CGK/GPK).

**Black Tern** *Chlidonias niger*

A single juvenile was noted at Budle Point on 6th (CGK/GPK) and singles fed over the Bondi Pool at Hauxley NWT on 5th (JSB/EC) and on 10th (TRD/JD).



A Black Tern at Hauxley NR on 10th September by Tim Dean

**Sandwich Tern** *Sterna sandvicensis*

The monthly totals counted at Seaton Sluice were 185S and 37N (SSWT) with gatherings noted of 45 at Budle Point on 20th (CGK/GPK), 32 at Cheswick on 23rd (MHu) and 20 at Howick on 7th (MJC). Two-12 were at ten other coastal localities between the River Tweed Estuary and Newbiggin (JMA/MJC/TRD/JD/MHu/PRM).

**Common/Arctic Tern** *Sterna hirundo/paradisaea*

21 were seen offshore at Newbiggin during a two-hour sea watch in late afternoon on 25th (PRM).

**Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*

The Seaton Sluice monthly totals were 76 N and 33 S (SSWT) and the largest concentration recorded was 100 at Budle Point on 6th (CGK/GPK). One to seven were elsewhere at Cresswell Pond, Hauxley, Newbiggin, Newton Point and St Mary's Island.

**Roseate Tern** *Sterna dougallii*

The species was recorded throughout the month at Budle Point with a maximum of 12 on 20th (CGK/GPK).

**Arctic Tern** *Sterna paradisaea*

At Seaton Sluice 26 passed from 1st-8th with few seen beyond this date (SSWT). The peak counts were 400 at Budle Bay on 4th (JMA) and 140 at Budle Point on 6th (CGK/GPK) with lower numbers elsewhere of one to 16 at Beadnell, Berwick, the River Tweed Estuary and Tynemouth.



An Arctic Tern on Stag Rocks by Chris Knox



**\*Sabine's Gull** *Xema sabini*

Three records came from Newbiggin on 21st comprising two records of two single adults moving N in the space of ten minutes (JBU/IF *et al.*) and thirdly, an adult feeding offshore with Kittiwakes (GB/DD); probably three different birds involved here. On 24th two juveniles were off-shore with Little Gulls at St Mary's Island on 24th (JPD/MPF) and the on same day a juvenile was seen at Seaton Sluice with Little Gulls (BB), possibly one of the two St Mary's birds. On 25th a juvenile moved S at Newbiggin in late afternoon (PRM).

**Kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla*

At Tynemouth on 24th, 5,000 moved N in one hour (CB) and at Seaton Sluice the maximum monthly counts were recorded on 19th and 20th when 750 and 360 moved N in one hour (SSWT). The high-tide gull roost at, Spittal, Sandstell Point (Berwick) held 360 on 16th and counts of 170 and 138 were made in the River Tweed Estuary on 5th and 26th respectively; a roost at sea on 16th at Berwick Meadow Haven held 94 (all MHu).

**Black-headed Gull** *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

An hour's sea watch at Newbiggin on 11th produced 42 moving N (PRM). Significant concentrations were 576 from a WeBS survey on the River Tweed Estuary on 5th (MHu), 500 at Budle Bay on 4th (JMA) and ca.500 on the shore at Low Newton on 8th (TD). Elsewhere 250 were at Whittonstall, 180 on the Coquet Estuary, 150 at Kiln Pit Hill and Lemington Hall (all JMA), 144 at Bothal Pond on 7th (TD) and 130 at Berwick, West Ord on 16th (MHu) with smaller counts of 34 at Berwick North Shore (MHu), 30 at Warkworth shore (JMA) and 18 at Hauxley NWT (HRS). A colour-ringed bird was at Cresswell Pond on 26th, black legend on white ring, 2ALS, marked as a chick in the Moorfoot Hills, Borders, Scotland on 14th June 2014 (MSH) and secondly, J9CE returned to St Mary's Island for the third year having spent the breeding season in Klepp, Norway (PCF).

**Little Gull** *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

A very good month for this species. At St Mary's Island 402 moved slowly N on 24th and this movement N was witnessed through the 27th-28th with counts of 117 and 77 (JPD/MPF/AWS). At Seaton Sluice a total of 193N and 60S was recorded, including an 'exceptional' final week, with 174N in two hours on 24th and 54S on 27th (SSWT); also on 24th, 96 were counted moving N at Tynemouth (CB). At Cullercoats at least 150 lingered offshore on 25th (CGK/CB) and on 24th ca.100 in groups were feeding and moving N at Snab Point (TRD/JD/MSH); 40 came in off the sea to circle Cresswell Pond on 23rd before moving off N (ADMc). Other concentrations during the last week were 55 at Tynemouth and ten at Bamburgh with one to three at East Chevington, Holy Island and Newbiggin.

**Mediterranean Gull** *Larus melanocephalus*

Very well reported with almost 40 sightings. As usual the maximum counts came from the favoured Newbiggin South Bay with 63 on 4th (ADMc), 44 on 13th (STH) and 30, mostly adults, on 1st (MN). Ellington football field held 15 on 21st, comprising six adults, three immatures and six juveniles (TB) and Cresswell Pond hosted up to nine birds of various ages throughout the month (ADMc/RB/MB). Elsewhere, one to eight, generally a mix of adults and immatures. were at Boulmer, Cheswick, Seaton Sluice, St Mary's Island and Warkworth Lane.

**Common Gull** *Larus canus*

Three-figure flocks were 600 at Haughton Strother GP, Humshaugh on 18th (MR) and a maximum of 460 in a roost on 24th at West Ord (Berwick) (MHu). A WeBS survey on the River Tweed Estuary held 12 on 5th and four were at Bothal Pond on 19th.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus graelsii*

The numbers fell dramatically as the autumn exodus from the county took place. Apart from 16 at Branton GP on 16th (IRD) only one to six were at six other localities, namely Bothal Pond, the Coquet Estuary, Derwent Reservoir, Hauxley NWT, Jesmond Dene and the River Tweed Estuary (JMA/MJC/TD/IFo/MHu/HRS).

On 28th, a bird at East Chevington with a very 'black' back was of the '*intermedius*' race (MSH).

August clarification: The record of 287 birds at Tweed Estuary should read seven birds.

**Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus argenteus*

At Budle Point on 6th in excess of 1,600 were recorded (CGK/GPK) and 1,200 were in Budle Bay on 4th (JMA). A WeBS survey on the River Tweed Estuary recorded 320 on 5th (MHu) and three-figure counts elsewhere were 450 at Rye Hill on 1st, 250 at the River Coquet Weir (Amble) on 3rd, 200 at Whittonstall on 29th and 110 in the North Shields Fish Quay area on 5th (all JMA). Lesser concentrations of 25-60 were at Berwick North Shore and Dunstan with four to six at Beadnell and Bothal Pond.

Three adult 'northern' birds of the race '*argentatus*' were at Castle Island on 25th (PRM).

**Iceland Gull** *Larus glaucoides*

A fourth calendar year bird flew over the main car park on Holy Island on 17th (PRM).

**Great Black-backed Gull** *Larus marinus*

A ploughed field at Newbiggin held 300 on 20th GB), with 54 at East Chevington on 14th (IRD), 15 on the River Tweed Estuary on 5th, six at Berwick North Shore on 2nd (MHu) and three at Hauxley NWT on 11th (HRS).

**Rock Dove** *Columba livia*

A large count of 146 at Stakeford Railway Bridge on 9th (DM), 37 at Kingston Park on 3rd (PCF) and present in Jesmond Dene during the month (MJC).

**Stock Dove** *Columba oenas*

A maximum monthly count at Howdon of 34 on 25th (CB), 20 at Lincoln Hill on 28th (SW), five at Big Waters on the same date with three at Cresswell Pond, Jesmond Dene and singles at Grindon Lough.

**Woodpigeon** *Columba palumbus*

A large gathering of 1,200 at Brier Dene Farm (Whitley Bay) on 17th (MNC), 11 at Jesmond Dene with an adult feeding three juveniles in a Walbottle garden on 14th (KR/LR) and a bird brooding small young at Holy Island on 29th (IK).

**Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*

Numbers increased at Dinnington with five on 9th rising to 22 on 30th. 16 were at Widdrington on 28th and five at Newbiggin on the same date (PCF).

**Rose-ringed Parakeet** *Psittacula krameri*

Six were at Heaton Park on 6th and 7th (DHWB) with a single at Matfen on 12th (DH).

**Cuckoo** *Cuculus canorus*

Un-aged singles were at Druridge Bay on 2nd (PHH), Holy Island on 14th (IBDa/KDa) and an adult at Bondi Pool (Hauxley NR) on 26th (JSB).

**Barn Owl** *Tyto alba*

The Cresswell Pond bird was seen on four dates from 1st till 15th (PHH/IRD/TF/JFa) with another single at Cornhill on Tweed on 3rd (*per* NNBC). Second broods of three and five were ringed at nests only 250m apart at Holy Island on 12th each pair having fledged three young earlier in the season (IK).

**Little Owl** *Athene noctua*

Three present all month at Shiremoor (CGK), one at Ryal on 13th (AJH), Dinnington on 17th (PCF) and Derwent Reservoir on 30th.

**Tawny Owl** *Strix aluco*

Well reported as birds called with three present all month at Gosforth Park NR (NHSN), two males and a female calling at Ellington on 20th (TB). Singles were at Simonburn on 4th, Wallington on 5th, High Church (Morpeth) on 10th, Ellington, Ryal & Wark all on 13th, Northside Farm on 16th, Dinnington and Big Waters on 17th, Shiellow Woods on 24th and Holywell Dene on 28th with one flushed from roost by Jays at Bolam Lake CP on the same date.

**Long-eared owl** *Asio otus*

A single report of one at Fontburn on 18th (CW).

**Short-eared owl** *Asio flammeus*

One was flushed from dunes at Hauxley on 28th (NFO).

**Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*

Very well reported indicating a good year for this species. Two were seen regularly at Budle Bay, Thrum Mill (Rothbury) and Jesmond Dene (CGK/GPK/DMi/JD/MJC), at Big Waters on 1st (GB), Castle Island (R.Wansbeck) on 11th (PRM), Fourstones on 17th (AJH) and Holywell Dene on 27th (RJP). Singles were seen at all the above locations and at 18 other widespread localities four of which were coastal.

**Wryneck** *Jynx torquilla*

On 17th one was found in dunes west of quarry at Holy Island (MJC) with presumably the same bird seen in flight at top end of the Crooked Lonnen at 15.50 hours (PRM).

Wryneck  
Hadston Carrs  
Jonathan Farooqi  
7th September





**Green Woodpecker** *Picus viridis*

Present all month feeding in the observer's garden at Rothbury (TRD/JD) and at Gosforth Park NR (NHSN). Singles were at Harbottle on 9th (JD), Bakethin Reservoir on 13th (PRM) and Morpeth Common on 18th (IRD).



A Green Woodpecker in Janet Dean's garden at Rothbury

**Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major*

More than three were at Bakethin Reservoir on 13th (PRM), two at West Hartford on 1st (LJM), Holywell Dene on 1st and 6th (RJP), Letah Wood (Hexham) on 5th (AJH), Bamburgh on 22nd (BRS) and East Cramlington NR on 27th (STH). Singles were at ten other widespread localities.

**Kestrel** *Falco tinninulus*

Holy Island peaked with seven birds on 20th (MJC/ADM), Prestwick Carr had five on 24th (PCF), four were at Druridge Pools on 26th (TB), and three were at Ellington on 14th (TB) and Cresswell Pond on 21st and 29th (TB). One to two were also at Alnmouth, Bedlington, Blyth, Bothal, Druridge Bay CP, East Chevington, Grindon Lough, Hadston Carrs, Hauxley, Holywell Dene, Linton, Longhorsley Common, Pegswood, Ridsdale, Warkworth Shore and Woodhorn.

**Merlin** *Falco columbarius*

Two birds, a male and a female, were at Holy Island on 17th (PRM). Singles were at Humshaugh on 2nd (MR), Grindon Lough on 4th and 14th (PRM), Fenham-le-Moor on 6th (AA), Cresswell Pond on 14th & 30th (TRD/JD *et al.*), Low Hauxley on 24th (MSH), Snab Point (Cresswell) on 27th (AA), Seaton Sluice on 29th (SSWT).

**Hobby** *Falco subbuteo*

A 1st-summer bird was chasing Swallows *Hirundo rustica* West at Ellingham on 7th (JPD/MPF/AWS).

**Peregrine** *Falco peregrinus*

One to two birds were seen in Budle Bay all month (CGK/GPK/DMi) and all other sightings this month involved single birds at Elswick (Newcastle) on 2nd (GB), Cresswell Pond on 2nd and 26th (PHH/MSH), Holy Island on 5th, 6th and 26th (MJC/ADM/NNBC), Low Newton on 6th (TF/JFa), Boulmer on 14th (RB/MB), Ellington on 18th (TB), Seaton Sluice on 21st (SSWT), St Mary's Island on several dates from 22nd (ASJ *et al.*), Branton on 23rd (IBDa/KDa), Blyth on 27th (AC), Castle Island on 27th (MN), Lincoln Hill on 28th (SW) and at Tows Bank on 30th (JSB/EC).

**Red-backed Shrike** *Lanius collurio*

A juvenile was found and photographed at Cambois on 14th (STH) with a first winter found and photographed at The Lough (Holy Island) on the same date remaining until the 20th (ADM/MJC *et al.*).



The Holy Island Red-backed Shrike  
17th September by Mike Carr

**Woodchat Shrike** *Lanius senator*

A very pale individual originally found at Prestwick Carr on the evening of 31st August by Nigel Tinlin was positively identified as this species on the 1st and viewed from the Wildlife Trust viewing platform by many (JPD/PHH *et al.*).

**Magpie** *Pica pica*

Ten were at Prestwick Carr on 9th (PCF), 8 the highest count for the month in a Walbottle garden (KR/LR) and seven in Jesmond Dene (MJC).

**Jay** *Garrulus glandarius*

Well reported as birds collected food for winter stores although the high count of seven flying south over Backworth appeared to be birds on migration as only two previous patch records noted (CGK). Six was the peak at Gosforth Park NR (NHSN), five in two groups at Bolam Lake on 28th (CDB), four at Prestwick Carr on 2nd (PCF), three at Linden Hall (Longhorsley) on 6th and at Plessey Woods CP on 24th (TB). Two were at 12 different locations and singles at a further 16.

**Jackdaw** *Corvus monedula*

The evening roost at Big Waters peaked at 250 on 10th with 200 there on 3rd (GB), 130 at Whitelea (Cramlington) on 27th (DM), 100 at Kiln Pit Hill on 29th and 50 at Hauxley on 3rd (JMA). 38 was the peak monthly count at Howdon, nine in Jesmond Dene and five in the observer's garden at Walbottle.

**Rook** *Corvus frugilegus*

Gatherings of 120 at Harbottle on 6th, 70 at Newtown and 65 at Warton on 1st with 25 at Dunstan on 4th (JMA) whilst one flew over Exhibition Park (Newcastle) where the species is now a rarity since the last few pairs died out (GB).

**Carrion Crow** *Corvus corone*

North Shields Fish Quay hosted 30 on 5th (JMA), 18 were at Town Moor (Newcastle) on 3rd including individuals with whitish wing bars, nine at Southfield Green (Cramlington) on 13th, four in Jesmond Dene and two in the observer's garden at Walbottle with one seen flying north out at sea from Seaton Sluice Watch Tower.

**Raven** *Corvus corax*

One large count of 19 on the border ridge at Schill on 5th (IRD) with two at Otterburn on 2nd, Alwinton on 4th & 9th, Grindon Lough on 25th and Tows Bank on 30th.

**Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus*

Many reports, the largest 60+ at Bakethin Reservoir on 13th (PRM), 22 at Holy Island on 15th with counts of 14 to 20 on five other dates (MJC/ADM), 20 at St Mary's Island on 15th (PRM), ten at Ellington on 6th, Bakethin on 28th and Bamburgh on 29th (TB/MD/BRS). One to seven were at 14 other widespread localities.

**Firecrest** *Regulus ignicapilla*

One was present at the Lough (Holy Island) from 19th to 21st (ADM *et al.*).

The Holy Island Firecrest  
by Jonathan Farooqi  
20th September

**Blue Tit** *Cyanistes caeruleus*

A flock of 26 were part of a count of 35 at Prestwick Carr on 6th (PCF), a flock of 20 at Newsham (Blyth) on 18th (LJM), six in dunes at Holy Island, likely part of coastal movements (IK), and five the highest count in a Walbottle garden (KR/LR).

**Great Tit** *Parus major*

Two reports of two at Jesmond Dene and Walbottle on 21st.

**Coal Tit** *Periparus ater*

Around 20 were at Bakethin Reservoir on 13th (PRM), one to three in an Old Hartley Garden during the month (RJP), two at Grindon Lough and Walbottle on 7th and Bamburgh on 13th with one at Gosforth Garden Village on 1st and Jesmond Dene during the month.

**Willow Tit** *Poecile montanus*

On 20th four were at Prestwick Carr (PRM), two in an Old Hartley garden (RJP), at North Plantation (between Ulgham and Longhirst) on 4th (MJC), Holywell Dene on 7th, likely the same birds visiting the aforementioned garden (RJP), Carlisle Park (Morpeth) on 25th (MJC), Backworth on 28th (CGK) and Derwent Reservoir on 30th (IFo). Singles were at six other locations during the month.

**Marsh Tit** *Poecile palustris*

A family party of six at Morpeth on 19th (TB) was the high count, three at North Plantation (between Ulgham & Longhirst) on 4th (MJC), two at Thrum Mill (Rothbury) on 20th and Wallington on 29th (JD) with singles there on two other dates and at Prestwick Carr, Craster and Fontburn.





**Skylark** *Alauda arvensis*

Good counts, the result of visible migration, with a high of 103 at Haughton Strother GP (Humshaugh) on 16th (MR), 20/h for three hours at Druridge pools on 12th (MJC), 60 at St Mary's Island on 25th (ASJ), 50 SW at East Cramlington LNR on 27th (STH) and at Greenhaugh on 12th (MD). A flock of 42 N at Cheswick on 23rd (MHu), 36 S at Backworth on 28th (CGK), 35 including two singing birds at St Mary's Island on 24th and 25 SW at Hexham on 21st (AJH) with 22 over the Straight Lonnen (Holy Island), Big Waters and 20 over Ellington, Marden Quarry (Whitley Bay). Four to 17 were at or over eleven other locations.

**Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia*

More than ten remained at Bothal Pond on 7th (TD) with singles at Big Waters on 1st (GB) and Newbiggin on 24th (TRD/JD).

**Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*

At Newbiggin on 1st 1,000 flew S between 08.30 & 09.15hours (MN) with 800 (300N, 500S) past Seaton Sluice Watch Tower on the same day (SSWT), 500 at West Hartford on 4th (STH) and over the village (Holy Island) on 5th (MJC). 300 were at West Hartford on 12th, Budle Bay on 13th and in the village at Holy Island on 17th. Counts of 100 to 170 came from Tynemouth, St Mary's Island, and Haughton Strother GP with one to 75 at 25 other widespread localities the latest being 13 moving south at Hauxley Beach on 30th (IRD).



A Swallow  
Hauxley NR  
by John Littleton  
10th September

**House Martin** *Delichon urbica*

Around 120 were over the village (Holy Island) on 15th and 70 there on 17th (MJC), 73 on wires at Seaton Sluice on 9th (TRC), 65 over Town Moor (Newcastle) on the same date, 50 over Heddon on the Wall on 14th (JSB) with 30 at Haughton Strother GP on 8th, Bamburgh on 19th and Hauxley on 26th. On 13th, 17 nests, some still containing young, were at Cresswell Village (ASJ) with 11 active nests at Tower Knowe (Kielder Water) (PRM). One to 15 were at 11 other localities with two at St Mary's Island on 30th the latest.

**Long-tailed Tit** *Aegithalos caudatus*

The largest 'tribes' were 20 at Prior's Park (Tynemouth) on 17th (CB), 15 at Hadston Carrs on 11th and at Minsteracres on 10th (JMA), 12 at Budle Bay on 4th (JMA) and at Newsham on 18th (LJM) and 11 near Humshaugh on 23rd (MR). Seven to ten were reported from Cramlington, Dinnington, Haughton Castle and Leazes Park and three to five from a further five localities.

**Greenish Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochiloides*

A showy individual was at Chare Ends (Holy Island) from 14th-18th (IDa/KDa *et al.*).



A Greenish Warbler on Holy Island. 15th September by Mike Carr

**Yellow-browed Warbler** *Phylloscopus inornatus*

There was a notable influx on Holy Island, beginning with one in the Vicar's garden on 14th. One to three were noted daily to 20th with a peak day count of five on 19th (MJC/ADM *et al.*); three were seen together at the Snook on 15th (IDa/KDa/MR *et al.*). Elsewhere, two were at St Mary's Wetland and one at Whitley Bay Cemetery on 15th (ASJ); two were at Low Newton on 17th and one at Tynemouth from 17th-19th. Singles were also at Brierdene, Marden Quarry, Woodhorn Church and inland at Longbenton on 18th; two were at Bamburgh on 19th, one at Low Newton on 20th, one at Castle Island on 25th and finally one was trapped and ringed at Bamburgh on 29th.

A Yellow-browed Warbler  
The Vicar's garden  
19th September  
Mike Carr





**Wood Warbler** *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Singles were at Whitley Bay Cemetery from 15th-18th (ASJ *et al.*) and at Holy Island on 17th (Excavations-PRM) and 21st (Vicar's garden-CDB *et al.*)

**Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita*

As usual there were numerous reports in September. Coastal passage was notable, with peak counts of 15-20+ from Bamburgh GC to Budle Point on 19th-20th (CGK/GPK), 18+ at Holy Island on 17th (PRM) and 12 at Craster on 21st (MJC/IF). A total of 15 were ringed at Bamburgh RS during the month and ten + were seen there on 13th. Six to seven were reported from Derwent Reservoir on 21st, Druridge Pools on 3rd, Prestwick Carr on 20th, St Mary's Wetland on 15th and Swallowship (Hexham) on 22nd and one to four from a further 41 widespread coastal and inland localities.

**Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Holy Island held birds throughout most of the month, with peak counts of 11-14 from 5th-6th, 18-25 from 16th-19th (peak on 16th) and 11 on 20th (MJC/ADM). Two were still on Holy Island to 30th. Elsewhere on the coast seven to ten were reported from Alnmouth on 6th, Bamburgh on 19th and Craster on 15th, whilst inland up to five were noted at Gosforth Park NR during the month and four were at Longhorsley Common on 12th. One to three were reported from a further 19 localities.

**Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*

Ten + were noted at Bamburgh on 13th and a total of 11 were trapped and ringed there during the month (BRS). Six were at Cambois on 14th (STH) and two to five were noted at Holy Island from 15th-20th. Up to three were at Druridge Pools on several dates and two to three at Woodhorn Church from 18th-20th. Singles were reported from Arcot Pond, Big Waters, Castle Island, Derwent Reservoir, Ellington, Exhibition Park, Low Newton and Plessey Woods.

**Garden Warbler** *Sylvia borin*

Holy Island held two to four from 5th-7th and up to five from 15th-19th (MJC/ADM) with one there on 21st. At St Mary's Island one to three were reported from 15th-20th with a peak on 16th (ASJ/MSH *et al.*). Elsewhere, two were at Budle Point on 20th and singles at Druridge Pools on 3rd, Tynemouth on 5th and 17th, Woodhorn Church on 18th and at Plessey Woods CP on 24th.

**Barred Warbler** *Sylvia nisoria*

There were a number of reports from Holy Island, beginning with a bird in the Vicar's garden on 5th (MJC); another was at the Snook from 6th-7th (MJC/ADM) and a further two were in the Lonnens on 7th (a total of three on 7th-JPD/MPF/AWS *et al.*). Later in the month singles were at Chare Ends from 15th-16th (MR *et al.*), the Snook on 17th (PRM/MJC) and the Lough from 20th-21st (MJC/ADM *et al.*). Elsewhere one was at Woodhorn Church on 18th (MJC) and another at Budle Point on 20th (CDB).



A Barred Warbler in the Vicar's garden on Holy Island  
Mike Carr on 5th September

**Lesser Whitethroat** *Sylvia curruca*

Inland, singles were noted at Prestwick Carr and Haughton Strother GP (Humshaugh) on 2nd (PCF/MR), the latter a first for the site and at Big Waters on 13th (GB) and Branton on 21st (IBDa/KDa). On the coast, singles were at Snab Point on 6th, Hadston on 10th and Bamburgh on 13th. One to two were noted at Holy Island from 16th-20th (MJC/ADM *et al.*) and further singles were at St Mary's Wetland on 17th and 29th, Tynemouth on 18th and Woodhorn on 20th.

A bird showing characteristics of the **Siberian race** *S.c. blythi* was photographed at Church Hill (Alnmouth) on 6th (PRM).



A lesser Whitethroat on Holy Island by Mike Carr on 17th September

**Whitethroat** *Sylvia communis*

At Holy Island there were four on 6th, two on 14th and one on 20th (MJC/ADM). Three were at Budle Point on 13th and two there on 20th (MJC/CGK/GPK), three were also at St Mary's Wetland on 17th and two at Hadston Carrs on 10th-11th (CDB/PRM). Elsewhere during the month singles were reported from Alnmouth, Bamburgh GC, Castle Island, Cocklawburn, Craster, Druridge Pools, Humshaugh, Longhorsley Common, Tynemouth and Woodhorn with the final record from Backworth on 28th.

**Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Singles were reported from Big Waters and Prestwick Carr on 1st (GB), Druridge Pools (singing) on 3rd (MJC) and Holy Island on 6th (MJC/ADM).

**Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Singles were at Cresswell Pond on 6th, St Mary's Island on 10th and 19th and Hadston on 10th. At Holy Island singles were reported at the Lough on 13th and from 19th-20th; others were in the Lonnens on 13th and at the Snook from 14th-16th.

**Nuthatch** *Sitta europaea*

Five were noted in Jesmond Dene during the month (MJC), four+ were at Bakethin Reservoir on 13th (PRM) and four at Linden Hall on 6th (NFO). One to two were also reported from Arcot Pond, Aydon (Corbridge), Blanchland, Haughton Castle, Heighley Gate, Holywell Dene, Minsteracres, Morpeth and Walbottle.

**Treecreeper** *Certhia familiaris*

Singles were reported from Bakethin Reservoir, Furnace Bridge (Bedlington) and Holywell Dene.

**Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Five at Holy Island on 14th rose to 17 by 17th with 12 still present there on 19th; a second influx produced 21 on 30th (MJC/ADM). There were five between Stag Rocks and Budle Point on 30th and four at Craster on 15th and at Woodhorn Church on 18th. Up to four were also noted in Jesmond Dene during the month. One to two were reported from Alnwick, Blanchland, Holywell Dene and Walbottle.

**Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*

Flocks of 500 were reported from Budle Bay on 4th (JMA), Low Newton on 8th (TD), St Mary's Island on 20th (ASJ), Cresswell on 26th (PCF) and Earsdon Moor on 28th (PCF), when 350 were also at Backworth (CGK). Elsewhere 200-270 were noted at Exhibition Park and Grindon Lough and 15-40 at a further five localities.

**Dipper** *Cinclus cinclus*

Five to six were counted along a one mile stretch of the River Coquet upstream from Rothbury on 22nd (PHH). Two were at Bakethin Reservoir on 13th (PRM) and at least one was seen in Jesmond Dene during the month. Further singles were reported from Blanchland, Holywell Dene, Mitford, Ponteland Park and Scotch Gill (Morpeth).



**Blackbird** *Turdus merula*

A light influx on Holy Island produced counts of 29 on 15th, 43 on 17th, 12-18 from 19th-20th and 30 on 29th (MJC/ADM/IK); a more significant arrival deposited 200+ on 30th (ADM). Seven were at Woodhorn Church on 18th.

**Fieldfare** *Turdus pilaris*

At Holy Island, two were in the Crooked Lonnen on 17th (MJC) and a single in the Straight Lonnen on 20th (MJC/ADM). Well inland another single was with Song Thrushes and Blackbirds at Lanehead (Tarsset) on 23rd (MD).

**Song Thrush** *Turdus philomelos*

18 were on Holy Island on 17th and seven there on 19th (MJC). Elsewhere, 17 were at Woodhorn Church on 18th (MJC), 14 at Lanehead (Tarsset) on 23rd (MD), 12 at Linden Hall on 10th (NFO) and six at Bakethin Reservoir on 25th; two juveniles were in a Walbottle garden on 14th (KR/LR).



A Song Thrush on Holy Island on 16th September by Janet Dean

**Redwing** *Turdus iliacus*

The first arrivals of the autumn were three SW over Holy Island on 14th (IK). A single was noted on the island on 19th and two on 20th (MJC/ADM).

**Mistle Thrush** *Turdus viscivorus*

A roosting flock of 25 was at Linden Hall (Longhorsley) on 10th and 20 were noted there on 27th (NFO). There were gatherings of 17 at Swallow Pond on 25th and 15 at Benton (Newcastle) on 20th, East Cramlington LNR on 6th and Exhibition Park on 5th; 11 were at Kirkley Mill on 5th, nine at Big Waters on 28th, six to eight at Derwent Reservoir, Gosforth Park NR and the Otterburn Ranges and two to three at Blanchland and Jesmond Dene.

**Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata*

The largest gathering was six near Humshaugh on 2nd (MR). Four were noted at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 1st (SR) and three juveniles were at Lincoln Hill on 14th. On Holy Island there were counts of two on 4th and one to three daily from 15th-21st. Singles were reported from Alwinton, Bamburgh, Castron, Exhibition Park, Fontburn, Prestwick Carr, St Mary's Island, Tynemouth, Whitley Bay Cemetery and Woodhorn. The final record was a single at Mootlaw Quarry (Ryal) on 28th (ALT).

Spotted Flycatcher  
Holy Island  
20th September  
Jonathan Farooqi



**Robin** *Erithacus rubecula*

On Holy Island, seven on 4th rose to 13-14 on 5th-6th; larger influxes later in the month produced counts of 19-35 from 15th-19th with a peak on 17th and 28 on 30th (MJC/ADM). There were 21 at Craster on 15th (ADM), 18 at Prestwick Carr on 6th (PCF), 13 were at Longhorsley Moor on 29th, 12+ at Bamburgh on 13th and 11 at Woodhorn Church on 18th. Counts of nine came from Cambois on 14th and Whitley Bay Cemetery on 16th and one to four from a further four localities.

**Red-breasted Flycatcher** *Ficedula parva*

Singles were at Low Newton on 14th (JPL), Druridge Pools on 15th (TB), St Mary's Island from 15th-16th (AC), Tynemouth Haven from 15th-19th (DRW) and Holy Island (Lough/Crooked Lonnen) from 15th-16th (MJC/TRD/JD). A different individual was again at Low Newton from 18th-20th (IBDa/KDa/TF/JFa) and another on the Farne Islands on 20th.

**Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Holy Island had a peak count of 14 on 17th (MJC), while seven to eight were present here from 13th-15th (MJC/ADM/IK) and lower numbers on a further six dates. Two were at Whitley Bay Cemetery on 6th and 17th (AC) and two at St Mary's Island on 15th (AC). Singles were also reported from Cresswell Pond, Snab Point and St Mary's between 4th-6th, Druridge on 12th and 15th, Tynemouth on 14th and 17th, Whitley Bay Cemetery on 15th, Low Newton on 18th, Bamburgh GC on 19th and the Farne Islands on 20th.



A Pied Flycatcher on Holy Island by Tim Dean on 16th September

**Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochruros*

At Holy Island (St Cuthbert's Island and beach) a male was present from 12th-14th and a juvenile from 13th-14th (IK et al).

**Redstart** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Holy Island held four on 14th and six to nine from 15th-20th with a peak on 19th (MJC/ADM); two were still present here on 21st and singles were noted from 4th-5th and on 7th, 21st and 24th. Further singles were on the coast at Bamburgh, Craster, Low Newton, St Mary's Island, Tynemouth and Woodhorn Church between 15th-22nd. Inland, singles were at Haughton Strother GP (Humshaugh) on 2nd and 8th and at Prestwick Carr on 6th.

**Whinchat** *Saxicola rubetra*

Birds were reported from Holy Island on 11 dates, with peak counts of six on 6th, nine on 17th and ten on 20th (MJC/ADM/PRM); five were near the Lough on 21st (CDB). Seven were at Snab Point on 6th (JL) and four at Newbiggin on 30th. Three to four were at Prestwick Carr on 1st and 10th-11th and at St Mary's Island on 15th, 20th-23rd and 28th. Two to three were present at Budle Point throughout the period 6th-20th and two were at Cresswell Pond on 21st. Singles were also reported from Newcastle Town Moor on 3rd, Brier Dene Farm on 13th, Ellington and Old Hartley on 14th, Tynemouth on 16th, Cocklawburn on 19th, Newbiggin on 20th and Exhibition Park on 22nd.



**Siberian Stonechat** *Saxicola maurus*

A first-winter male was at Holy Island Lough from 19th-21st (MJC/ADM).

The Holy Island Siberian Stonechat  
Mike Carr  
19th September

**Stonechat** *Saxicola rubicola*

As usual the vast majority of reports were from the coastal belt, where the species appears to be regaining its former strength. Peak counts were nine at Warkworth Gut on 30th (JPD/MPF/AWS), eight at Bamburgh GC on 9th (GPK) and seven at Budle Point on 13th (MJC) and at Cresswell Pond on 15th and 21st. Counts of five came from Hartley (a family group) and Holy Island and four from Druridge Pools and Cocklawburn, while one to three were also reported from Boulmer, Ellington, Hadston, Low Newton, Monks' House Pool, Seaton Sluice and St Mary's Island. Inland, four (two pairs?) were at Lordenshaw on 27th (AB/LB), two to three at Prestwick Carr on 13th and 20th, two at Selby's Cove (Simonside) on 27th and singles at Gosforth Park NR on 28th, Otterburn Ranges (Burma Road) on 6th, Thorngraston Common on 30th and Spylaw (Simonside) on 27th.



A female Stonechat  
East Chevington by Alan Jack

**Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Birds were reported from Holy Island on 14 dates from 4th-6th, 13th-21st and 24th-30th, with peak counts of six on 6th, 14 on 21st and five on 27th (CDB/MJC/ADM *et al.*). Elsewhere, five were at Alnmouth and Tynemouth on 6th (PRM/DRW) and four at Tynemouth on 20th, Boulmer on 21st and St Mary's Island on 28th. One to three were reported from a further 18 mainly coastal localities to the end of the month.

**Dunnock** *Prunella modularis*

Fourteen were trapped and ringed at Bamburgh ringing station on 14th. One to three were at three sites in the South East of the county during the month.

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*

A good count of 400 was made at Holy Island, mainly around the village on 16th, (ADM). Another high count of 150 was made at Whittle Dene on 1st (SR). 75 noted at Newbiggin on 6th (GB), 60 at Backworth on 28th (CGK) and 58 at the observer's garden in Cramlington on 8 h (LJM). 22-40 were at five further widespread sites during the month.

**Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus*

The month's high count was of 120 in Jesmond Dene on 20th (TD). 67 were at Haughton Strother GP (Humshaugh) on 2nd, increasing to 82 by the 8th (MR). Another good gathering was of 80 birds at Briar Dene Farm on 30th (MNC). 42 at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 6th (TB), with 40 at East Cramlington LNR on the same date (STH). Coastal passage was noted on 12th at St. Mary's Wetland, where 30 birds flew south in three small flocks (ASJ), and 16 S on 29th (AC). 30 Noted at Holywell Dene on 12th (KWY) and around 20 at Cresswell Pond on 11th (PRM). One to 18 were at 13 other sites throughout the month.

**Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava*

Cresswell Pond held six birds on 11th, three on 13th and one, a juvenile on 27th (TRC/PRM/ASJ/NFO). Two flew S at Druridge Pools on 3rd, three on 12th and a single on 8th, (MJC). Two were seen at Grindon, Bothal, and Druridge and singles noted at St. Mary's, Low Newton and Cresswell, up to the 27th of the month.

**Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*

Seven noted during the month in Jesmond Dene (MJC), and at Fourstones on 17th (AJH). Six at Castle Island on 6th (TRC) and five at Tynemouth flying S early morning of 7th (DRW). Three were at West Hartford, flying E at the River Wansbeck, Ashington and Gosforth Garden Village and two noted at Wallington, Holywell Dene, Bamburgh, Tynemouth, Ponteland Park and on the North Tyne at Wark. Singles were seen at 21 widespread sites during the month.

**Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla alba*

An impressive 160 were in a field at Bothal Pond on the evening of the 2th, with 50 remaining the following day (TB). A roost at Tapee Fen on the Tweed at Berwick on 9th, contained 50 birds (BWG). Other good counts included 40 at Whittle Dene on 12th and 38 feeding on the beach at St Mary's Island on 13th (SR/ASJ). Around 30 were at Grindon on 16th, 27-28 at Whitley Bay Links mini-golf course on 16th and 18th and 28 were at Longhorsley Common on 14th. 21 roosted in a hedge at Wark on 28th and 20 at Cresswell pond on 8th. Five to 15 noted at a further five sites, including seven flying SW at East Cramlington.

**White Wagtail** *Motacilla a alba*

Three were at Whittle Dene on 12th (SR) and one was at Cresswell Pond on 6th (IRD).

**Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis*

Two were seen to fly in off the sea on 20th at The Lough (Holy Island) (MJC/ADM). Six further coastal migrants were noted at Bamburgh, Tynemouth on three dates and Holy Island again on two further dates. Inland sightings involved southward passage of six birds on 3rd, two on 4th and one on 8th at Greenhaugh (MD).

**Meadow Pipit** *Anthus pratensis*

Several large counts of coastal migrants this month with the largest at Low Newton of 400 on 1st after heavy overnight rain. 400 also at Tynemouth on the morning of 7th flying S (DRW) and 283 heading SW at East Cramlington LNR on 27th (STH). The monthly total migrating south over Marden Estate (Cullercoats) was 300+ (ASJ). 200 + south at St. Mary's Wetland on 5th and 150+ also moving south at Druridge Pools on 12th (ASJ/MJC). Inland, 500 were grounded in misty conditions on 3rd at Lanehead, and a total of 300 flew south at Greenhaugh the following day (MD). 110 were at Grindon on 11th (PRM). Birds also moving south at Garden Farm (Gosforth) with 30 per hour over 3 hours noted on 7th (MJC). 50 at Newton, 45 in the Simonsides and 40 feeding at St. Mary's beach were also notable (JEd/AB/LB/ASJ). Groups of 35 feeding, then flying S at St. Mary's on 26th and 33 at Haughton Strother on 8th (ASJ/MR). Ten to 32 were seen at 11 further sites and light coastal passage observed at North Shields and St. Mary's on 2nd and 30th of the month.



Meadow Pipits on 5th  
September on Holy Island by Mike Carr



**Rock Pipit** *Anthus petrosus*

Six + were at St. Mary's on 23rd and at Hauxley, feeding on rotting kelp on 26th (MHS/IFO). Five also at St. Mary's on 30th (ASJ). Two were at Hauxley on 20th and Tynemouth on 16th. Singles observed at Spital Bay and north beach Newbiggin, Alnmouth, Blyth Harbour, Cresswell Pond and Low Newton.

**Brambling** *Fringilla montifringilla*

A light arrival began on 15th, with one, then four birds at St. Mary's (ASJ/AC), followed by two in Whitley Bay Cemetery (ASJ). One was at feeders in the observer's garden the following day (ASJ). Holy Island produced three on 19th, two on 17th, and a pair on 30th (MJC/ADM). Singles were there on 20th and 27th (TF/JFa/NNBC).

**Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs*

Feeders at Greenhaugh attracted 150 on 2nd (MD). 20 were at Baybridge on 29th (JMA). Birds coming into a Walbottle garden during the month peaked at 8 on 21st (KR/LR). Six were noted at Howdon on 17th (CB). Elsewhere in gardens, five at Old Hartley and a pair at Marden Estate (Cullercoats) on several dates. Two migrants appeared on Holy Island on 17th and two were in Jesmond Dene on several dates (MJC).

**Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Eight were counted at Prestwick Carr on 9th and a pair here with three juveniles on 20th. Eight were seen at Bakethin on 25th, and seven at Derwent Reservoir on 30th were the month's high counts (PCF/MD/IFo). Up to six were attracted into a garden at Old Hartley during the month,(RJP). Groups of four at Swallowship Wood (Hexham), Gosforth Park and Holywell Dene and one to two at six further sites in the county.

**Greenfinch** *Carduelis chloris*

19 were trapped and ringed at Bamburgh Ringing Station throughout the month, with 20+ birds present there on 22nd. 16 seen at Howdon on 13th (CB) and 11 at East Cramlington on 6th (STH). Adults were feeding four juveniles in an Alnwick garden on 11th (JMA). One to eight were at three sites.

**Linnet** *Carduelis cannabina*

The month's largest gathering was of a feeding flock in stubble fields at St. Mary's reaching 600 birds on 5th. Some dispersal to fields to the west occurred, but 350+ remained in the area between 12th and 22nd (ASJ). 250 were also noted here on 6th (JPD/MPF/AWS). Other large flocks were noted at Briar Dene Farm (Whitley Bay) with 240 on 13th, which had increased from 60 on 9th, and 200 were at Lincoln Hill on 28th (MNC/SW). 180 at Stag Rocks on 6th (CGK/GPK) and 120 frequented the Chare Ends area of Holy Island throughout the month (IK). 85+ at Holy Island on 17th may have involved some overlap(PRM). 125 at Budle Bay on 4th(JMA). In the far north, two flocks of 80 were at Cocklawburn and Cheswick Dunes on 23rd. Elsewhere, one to 35 were at seven sites during the month.

**Twite** *Carduelis flavirostris*

The first record of the Autumn was of a single at Grindon on 16th, followed the next day by four with Linnets at Chare Ends, (Holy Island) (PRM).

**Lesser Redpoll** *Carduelis caberet*

At Greenhaugh, 80 on 4th had increased to about 100 by 12th (MD). 70 were seen at Caistron on 6th (JD). Five, including a juvenile being fed, were at Grindon on 5th. At the coast, four migrants were at St. Mary's on 22nd (ASJ).

**Crossbill** *Loxia curvirostra*

There were only four records this month, with two birds at Shiellow Woods on 24th(MJC) and two heard at Thrunton Woods on 26th(JD). Seven birds were near reservoirs in the north west, with four seen at Bakethin on 25th and three at Catcleugh on 28th(MD).

**Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*

100 to 122 were noted at three sites this month, Prestwick Carr on 12th, Chare Ends, Holy Island throughout the month and East Chevington on 13th(PCF/IK/TD). Around 75 were also seen at Holy Island on 17th (PRM) and 70 at Derwent Reservoir on 20th (IFo). Counts of 50 to 53 were made at Hauxley, St Mary's, East Chevington South Pool and West Hartford(PCF/ASJ/STH/TB) and 20 to 40 at eleven widespread sites from Budle Bay and Seahouses to Newcastle Town Moor. Also smaller numbers noted throughout the month of between one and 15 birds at ten further sites.

**Siskin** *Carduelis spinus*

A flock of 120 at Baybridge in the far west of the county was the largest gathering this month(JMA). 50 were noted at Haughton Strother (Humshaugh) on 23rd(MR) and at the coast, passage birds involved 20 at St. Mary's on 18th(AC), singles at two Holy Island sites on 19th and 20th, with a further observation of three birds also on the island on 20th. Two were the first of the Autumn to be seen at Backworth on 28th.

August Four were at Wark (North Tyne) on 19th.

**Snow Bunting** *Plectrophenax nivalis*

A single seen at Cheswick on 25th was the first returning bird of the season.(BWG).

**Yellowhammer** *Emberiza citronella*

Only noted at five sites this month, with a maximum of 22 being seen at Bamburgh Golf Course on 20th (GCK/GPK). Eight were at Aydon and five at Cocklawburn on 30th (RB/MB/MHu), with two at Lincoln Hill and a single at Big Waters on 28th.

August There were few reports this month, however two were singing at Beacon Hill (Cramlington) on 3rd (STH) and singles were also singing at Kitty Brewster, Sleekburn (GB) and Lynemouth (ASJ).

**Reed Bunting** *Emberiza shoeniclus*

40+ observed at Holy Island on 17th (PRM), ten+ at St Mary's on 30th (MSH). One to seven were at five other sites in the month (PCF/PRM).

August 60 were counted at Holy Island on 31st (ADM). One to six were seen at four other sites.

**ESCAPES, HYBRIDS AND BIRDS OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN****Escapes****Bar-headed Goose** *Anser indicus*

A group of five were still present in the county with sightings at Derwent Reservoir on 20th (IFo) and at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 22nd (SR). Presumably two of the same group were then located at Widdrington Moor lake on 24th (MSH) and again at Hauxley on 29th (HRS).

**Canada Goose hybrid**

An odd-looking hybrid at Big Waters on 7th was thought to be a possible Canada Goose x Swan Goose hybrid (GB).

**Cockatiel** *Nymphicus hollandicus*

An escapee was present at East Ord near Berwick on 27th (MHu).

**Parakeet sp** *Psittacula sp*

One was noted at Hauxley on 25th (TRC).

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Bamburgh Ringing Station, Berwick Wildlife Group, Hauxley Ringing Station, Natural History Society of Northumbria, North Northumberland Bird Club, Seaton Sluice Watch Tower.

**Apologies for any accidental omissions****BULLETIN COMPILATION AND PRODUCTION**

This bulletin was compiled by Graeme Bowman (Mute Swan to Ruddy Duck), Lindsay McDougall (Red Grouse to Black-necked Grebe), Trevor Blake (Honey-buzzard to Crane), Steve Holliday (Avocet to Godwit) Ian Forsyth (Turnstone to Skua), Eddie Crabtree (Puffin to Great Black-backed Gull), Tim Dean (Escapes, Hybrids and Unknown Origin, List of Contributors, Highlights), Peter Fletcher (Feral Pigeon to Red-rumped Swallow), Mike Richardson (Cetti's Warbler to Pied Flycatcher), Alan Jack (Duncock to Corn Bunting), Dan Turner (WeBS Coastal Counts) and Steve Holliday (WeBS Inland Counts).

Thanks to David Sanders of NNBC for providing data.

Proof reading was by Mike Smith.

Edited by Steve Barrett [NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com](mailto:NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com)

Mail distribution by Paul Stewart.

**RECORD SUBMISSION**

Please email [ntbcorg@gmail.com](mailto:ntbcorg@gmail.com) for a copy of the standard spreadsheet and other details.

Location names and grid references: The use of standard location names and the include grid references as this greatly increases the value of records in subsequent analyses. A 1km square grid reference is the ideal e.g. NY8067 for Grindon Lough, but 2km square references (tetrads) are also acceptable e.g. NY86D in this case. A list of localities and their tetrad grid references (tetrad/Locality List) can be downloaded from the 'Resources & Downloads' section of the Club website at <http://www.ntbc.org.uk> – the use of these names, wherever possible, would be highly appreciated.

Could club members ensure they to submit records direct to NTBC rather than just Birdtrack. There may be an assumption by some members this happens automatically. We do not want to miss records.



## PHOTOGRAPHS AND ILLUSTRATIONS

Please keep submitting your articles, photographs, sketches and illustrations for the bulletin. Thanks again to those who have supplied the excellent photographs. Please send to Steve Barrett at [NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com](mailto:NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com). It is preferable if you re-size your photos before sending and a suggested size is 640 x 480 pixels. Please ensure you include the following information with your submissions: name, species, date taken, locality. Photographs will not be used elsewhere without the photographer's permission.

## MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Membership costs £30 per year. For membership enquiries please contact [ntbc@jobentley.plus.com](mailto:ntbc@jobentley.plus.com)

Annual subscriptions were due from 1st October. Members are asked to check that standing orders have been paid.

## NTBC WEB SITE

The Club website is an excellent resource for all interested in birds in the north-east. There are numerous interesting sections, including a photograph gallery, site information and trip reports together with extensive reference information for birding in our area. Please submit any new content for the website to the main club email address.

## NTBC SIGHTINGS PAGE

The Sightings Page contains current reports by members. Access is from the NTBC website and an email notification is available for new postings.

Members need to submit a request to be added to the website, specifying the email address they wish to post from before they can submit sightings to [ntbcorg@gmail.com](mailto:ntbcorg@gmail.com)

## BULLETIN WRITER

Lindsay McDougall is having a rest during 2015 after many years writing his section. Thanks for the hard work Lindsay.

So we need a writer for **Grouse to Grebes** for the coming year. January 2015 will be the first month and the section will be written from mid February 2015. Volunteers?

## SEATON SLUICE WATCH TOWER

Repairs have recently been made to the SSWT and a new lock has been fitted. This means that new keys have been cut and are required for access. Keys will be distributed at indoor meetings from 13th November.

Keys are available for £5 for new holders and existing key-holders can exchange keys for £4.

## INLAND WeBS COUNTS: NORTH HUMBERLAND

Version

Interim

**Year: 2014**  
**Month: September**

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# Northumberland and Tyneside Bird Club

Registered Charity No. 517641

<http://www.ntbc.org.uk/>

Bulletin 2014 No 10

MONTHLY SUMMARY – OCTOBER

5th December 2014



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Little Gull

Great Grey Shrike

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Shorelark

Single only at Grindon Lough from 21st.

One at Hauxley on 27th.

A well described female flew through St Mary's on 24th.

A late single N at St Mary's on 4th.

An untagged immature spent two hours near Holy Island causeway on 12th.

One at Widdrington from 22nd to 24th was part of a UK influx.

Two on Holy Island on 7th.

One inland at Big Waters on 15th was unfortunately taken by a Sparrowhawk.

An adult N at St Mary's on 4th and a juvenile at Seaton Sluice on 13th.

Singles at Bamburgh on 8th and St Mary's / Tynemouth on 26th.

Singles at St Mary's and Newbiggin.

Adult and juvenile past Seaton Sluice and St Mary's on 13th.

Large movement mid-month.

One at Stelling Hall on 15th.

Interesting sightings at Tynemouth were first for North Tyneside.

Up to five at Holy Island Lough.

One at East Chevington on 11th and 12th.



One of the Yellow-browed Warbler influx  
Holy Island 6th October by Mike Carr

## INDOOR MEETINGS

NTBC indoor meetings are held at Northern Rugby Club, McCracken Park, Great North Road, Newcastle, NE3 2DT starting at 7.00pm and generally finish between 9.00pm-9.30pm.

The next meeting of the 2014-2015 season is 11th December 2014

## Some Ethiopian Birds

- Well known to many in the Club, Janet Dean recently travelled to the bird-rich country of Ethiopia. From high heather-covered mountains to lowland deserts and watering holes, Janet managed to see an amazing range of species and tonight she will share some of her favourite experiences.

8th January 2015

### 1,000 miles for Martha and Bird Conservation in Turkey

Tristan Reid aka 'The Inked Naturalist'.

- Tristan has become a legend in the bird conservation world for his knowledge of middle eastern birds and his exploits and efforts to raise profile of species under threat and to raise funds to help with finding a solution to their conservation.

## CLASSIFIED LIST

The following account consists of unchecked reports. The species/subspecies marked \* require descriptions.

A complete list of all sightings that need notes is included in the NTBC website [www.ntbc.org.uk](http://www.ntbc.org.uk) under the County Records Committee section and in Birds in Northumbria 2012 page 236.

The Inland and Coastal Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) tables are at the rear of the bulletin. These contain counts additional to those in the Classified List.

### Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

Peak counts were 144 at the Tweed Estuary on 10th (MHu), 81 at QEII CP Lake on 12th (CDH), 66 at Holy Island causeway on 31st (CDB), 53 at Big Waters (GB), and 27 at Stakeford (DM *et al.*). Ten to 18 were at Broomlee Lough, Gosforth Park NR and North Blyth, and five to nine at Amble weir, Arcot and Bothal Ponds, Druridge Pools, Greenlee Lough, Hauxley Reserve, Meadow Haven (Berwick) and Newcastle Leazes Park. One to four were at eight further sites. More unusual was one on the Ouseburn at Jesmond Dene on 29th (DHWB).



A Mute Swan makes a splash at Hauxley NR  
Chris Barlow

### Whooper Swan

Nine flew S at Whitley Bay (MSH) on 10th when eight flew S at Tynemouth until they saw the Durham coast at which point they flew out to sea! (CB); 13 flew S at Hadston (JSB/EC) and seven S at Tynemouth on 24th (SPP); 11 S at St Mary's (CDB) and Tynemouth (CB/DRW), and ten S at Boulmer (RB/MB) on 25th; 14 S at St Mary's on 27th (SPP), while ten flew E at Derwent Reservoir on 23rd (IFo). Seven flew in off the sea at Holy Island on 17th (IK). Two to four flew S at Backworth, Druridge Pools, Prestwick Carr and Snab Point between 1st-18th, four W at Hexham, and two NW at Cocklawburn. Peak counts were low, with peaks of 21 at Beal on 12th (MJC/ADM), 16 (all adults) at East Chevington on 5th (TRD/JD/IK), ten at Holy Island on 24th (SJH), and ten at Widdrington Moor Lake on 24th (JPD/MPF/AWS). Six to eight were at Bothal Pond (IRD), Cresswell Pond (AA/JSB/EC) and West Ord (MHu). One to four were also at Airy Holm and Bakethin Reservoirs, Big Waters, Grindon Lough, Haughton Strother GP, West Ord and Widdrington Moor Lake.

### goose (sp.) *anser/branta*

A large goose (sp.) was at Hauxley Reserve on 4th-5th (CDB/PCF).



**Pink-footed Goose** *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Passage was evident throughout the month, with peaks of 600 S at Low Newton on 8th (MJC), 460 NW at Bamburgh (BRS) and 184 S at Berwick (MHu) on 11th, 180 W at Tynemouth on 26th (CGK), 180 NW at Cocklawburn on 29th (CGK), and 110-150, in various directions, at East Chevington, East Ord, Newcastle Town Moor and Oxford. Flocks of 66-98 flew over (mainly S) at Brunswick Green (near Wideopen), East Ord, Seaton Sluice, St Mary's and Tynemouth on various dates, with 12-45 at six sites.

Largest concentrations involved 3,000 mobile birds at Beal on 12th (MJC/ADM), 2,000 at Budle Bay on 11th (BRS), 1,600 at Widdrington Moor Lake on 17th (MH), 1,000 near Linton on 12th (CDH), 860-900 at Cresswell Pond (IRD) and Cheswick (MHu), and 300-560 at Holy Island and Maiden's Hall Lake. Groups of 96-180 were at Brier Dene Farm, Caistron, Cocklawburn, East Chevington and Ord Moor (Berwick), and 12-35 at Derwent Reservoir, Haughton Strother GP and Holywell Pond. A leucistic individual was in a flock of 150 moving S at East Chevington on 9th (IK).

**White-fronted Goose** *Anser albifrons*

An adult of the Greenland *flavirostris* race was at Grindon Lough on 21st and 28-29th (PRM/SJH), and one at Widdrington Moor Lake on 12th (JL) was possibly of this race. One at Linton Ponds on 12th was of the Eurasian *albifrons* race (CDH).

**Greylag Goose** *Anser anser*

A flock of 124 flew S at East Ord on 10th (MHu), and 50 flew W at Cramlington on 6th and 22nd (DM). Peak counts were 670 at Derwent Reservoir on 4th (IFo), 450 at Branton GP on 15th (JD), 381 at Haughton Strother GP on 14th (MR), and 100-150 at/over Alnwick (JMA), Big Waters (GB), Branton Park (JMA), Budle Bay (CGK/GPK) and Hauxley Reserve (CDB). Counts of 80-83 came from Widdrington Moor Lake and Woodhorn Flashes, 12-21 were at Bothal Pond, Broomlee and Grindon Loughs and Cheswick, and eight at QEII CP.

**Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis*

115 flew N at Mootlaw Quarry on 8th (ALT) and three S at Tynemouth on 125th (CB). Grindon Lough held widely varying numbers in the month, with a peak of 361 on 29th (SJH); 293 were at Linton Ponds on 12th (CDH) when 150 were at QEII CP Lake (CDH), 58 were at Haughton Strother GP (MR), and 20-39 at Broomlee and Greenlee Loughs, Hauxley Reserve, Newcastle Leazes Park and the Tweed Estuary. Five to ten were at Big Waters, Bothal Pond and Grindon Lough, and one was at Budle Bay.

**Barnacle Goose** *Branta leucopsis*

About 1,000 flew S at Ross Links on 5th (AB/LB), 70 moved S at Stag Rocks on 23rd (BRS), and ten S at Tynemouth on 17th (DRW). Budle Bay held 1,100 on 2nd (CGK/GPK), 240-255 on 11th (ASJ/BRS), 850 on 12th (GPK), 85 on 14th (AA/MH), and 66 on 23rd (BRS). Elsewhere, 16 were at Cheswick on 29th (MHu), and one to three at Beadnell, Boulmer, Branton GP, East Chevington, Grindon Lough, Haughton Strother GP, Hauxley Reserve, Monks' House Pool and Widdrington Moor Lake.

**Brent Goose** *Branta bernicla*

A total of 48 dark-bellied *bernicla* race birds flew N and 12 S at Seaton Sluice on 6th-7th, including 48 N and eight S on 6th (SSWT), while a total of 35 birds of this race flew N at St Mary's between 7th-30th (JPD/MSH *et al.*). Two, of the pale-bellied *hrota* race, flew N at Seaton Sluice on 13th (SSWT), while 62 un-raced birds flew N at Tynemouth on 6th (CB). At Lindisfarne NNR, 3,000 un-raced birds were present on 11th (ASJ) and 2,000 on 23rd-24th (SJH). A count there on 14th consisted of 200 of the *bernicla* race and 530 of the *hrota* race (KWY).

**Egyptian Goose** *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

One was at Hauxley Reserve on 27th (CDB).

**Shelduck** *Tadorna tadorna*

Two flew N at St Mary's on 4th (JPD/MPF/AWS). Budle Bay held 380 on 4th (CGK/GPK), 398 on 11th and 427 on 23rd (BRS). Three were at Castle Island on 5th (DM *et al.*).

**Mandarin** *Aix galericulata*

Two were at a duck pond in Alnwick Garden on 16th (JMA). A drake in eclipse plumage was at Gosforth Park NR early in the month (NHSN) and was thought to be the same individual as that noted at Big Waters in September 2014.

**Wigeon** *Anas penelope*

A total of 672 flew N and 409 S at Seaton Sluice between 1st-18th, and included an unusual movement of 339 S on 6th (SSWT), a total of 335 flew N at St Mary's between 4th-30th (JPD/MPF/MSH/AWS), and 26 N at Tynemouth on 5th (CB). At Lindisfarne NNR, 5,000-6,000 regularly roosted on sands north of Pilgrims Way; a new area and perhaps caused by night shooting pressure in mainland areas of Fenham Mill/Fenham-le-Moor (IK), 5,000+ were noted in the Fenham Flats area on 18th (ASJ), while 1,500 were at Holy Island on 14th (KWY) and 820 at Budle Bay on 5th (CGK/GPK). Other peak counts were 750 at Grindon Lough on 17th (PH), 650 at East Chevington on 3rd (IFo), 300-312 at Big Waters (GPK) and Hauxley Reserve (IFo), and 110-129 at Bothal Pond and Hoppen Kiln Flash. Counts of 51-70 came from the Coquet Estuary, Gosforth Park NR and Holywell Pond, and ten to 35 were at Arcot Pond, Haughton Strother GP, Swallow Pond and Tynemouth.

**Gadwall** *Anas strepera*

The largest gatherings were 111 at Big Waters on 19th (GB), 42 at Hauxley Reserve on 3rd (IFo), 28 at Druridge Pools on 31st (IRD), and ten to 16 at East Chevington (TRD/JD) and Swallow Pond (JPD/GPK/SPP *et al.*). Six to seven were also at Bothal Pond and Marden Quarry, and three to four at Castle Island, Laverock Hall Farm Pond, Linton Ponds and QEII CP Lake, and one to two at Arcot Pond, Branton GP and Howdon.

**Teal** *Anas crecca*

A total of 442 flew N at St Mary's between 4th-30th (JPD/MPF/AWS), while a total of 216 flew N and 299 S at Seaton Sluice between 1st-18th, including an unusual movement of 299 S between 4th-7th (SSWT). Peak concentrations were 900 at Budle Bay on 2nd (CGK/GPK), 434 at Derwent Reservoir on 16th (IFo), 395 at Grindon Lough on 5th (PRM), 292 at Arcot Pond on 18th (STH), 267 at Castle Island on 5th (DM *et al.*), and 114-150 at Holy Island (KWY) and Howdon (CB). Counts of 40-65 came from Bothal Pond, Haughton Strother GP, Hoppen Kiln and Monks' House Pools, and 15-36 from Elswick, Gosforth Park NR, Hauxley Reserve, Lynemouth, Prestwick Carr, Spittal Bay and St Mary's.

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*

A total of 13 flew N at St Mary's on 21st and 30th (JPD/MPF/AWS), and eight flew N and four S at Seaton Sluice between 4th-18th (SSWT). Derwent Reservoir attracted 268 on 12th (IFo), 230 were at Grindon Lough on 27th (AJR), 112 at Bothal Pond on 12th (TD), 100 on the Lyne Burn at Lynemouth on 11th (GB/LAR), and 79-97 at Castle Island (DM), Haughton Strother GP (MR) and the Tweed Estuary (MHu). Counts of 56-65 came from Grindon Lough, Marden Quarry, Newcastle Leazes Park, Prestwick Carr and QEII CP Lake, while 34-48 were at Airy Holm Reservoir, Cocklawburn Pond, Hauxley Reserve, and ten to 21 at Alnwick gardens, Amble weir, Arcot and Linton Ponds, Byker, Monks' House Pool, Wallington Hall and Wark.

**Pintail** *Anas acuta*

A total of eight flew N and eight S at Seaton Sluice during the month, including eight S on 6th (IFo), while two flew N at St Mary's (MSH) and one N at Tynemouth on 13th (DRW) and Spittal Bay on 22nd (MHu). East Chevington north pool held a peak of 28 on 3rd (IFo), ten on 5th (TRD/JD) and one to five up to 31st (IRD/NFO *et al.*); six were at St Mary's on 7th (JPD/MPF/AWS), four were at Hauxley Reserve on 3rd (IFo), three at Grindon Lough on 5th (SJH), and singles at Budle Bay, Castle Island and Newton Pool.

**Blue-winged Teal** *Anas discors*

One, first noted in September, was in the Castle Island -'Cambois' rowing club, Stakeford area on 2nd (MSH), 12th\* (GB) and 29th (CDB). \* Noted coming to bread, with Mallards, down to just a metre.

**Shoveler** *Anas clypeata*

34 were at Swallow Pond on 27th (JPD/MPF/AWS), 30 (15 drakes) at East Chevington on 28th (AA/MH), ten at Monks' House Pool on 5th (TM), six to eight at Big Waters (GB), Druridge Pools (IRD) and Grindon Lough (PRM), and three to four at Arcot Pond (LJM), Gosforth Park NR (NHSN) and Holy Island harbour pools (KWY). One to two were also at Cresswell and Linton Ponds, and Killingworth Lake.

**Pochard** *Aythya ferina*

Singles flew S at Seaton Sluice on 4th and 6th (SSWT). Killingworth Lake held 13 on 18th (LJM), seven were at Greenlee Lough on 12th (MRS), and three to four at Derwent Reservoir (IFo), Gosforth Park NR (NHSN), and Haughton Strother GP (MR). One to two were also noted at Bakethin Reservoir, Bothal and Linton Ponds, East Chevington and QEII CP Lake.

**Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula*

Three flew N at Seaton Sluice on 14th (SSWT). Peak counts were 91 at Castle Island on 5th (DM/STH/PJA/IFo), 57 at Killingworth Lake on 18th (LJM), 42 at Ladyburn Lake on 17th (IFo), 37 at Greenlee Lough on 12th (MRS), 33 at QEII CP Lake on 12th (CDH), and 20-22 at Cocklawburn Pond (MHu) and Newcastle Exhibition Park (GB). Counts of ten to 18 came from Big Waters, Bothal and Linton Ponds, Haughton Strother GP and Stakeford, while six to nine were at Airy Holm Reservoir, Broomlee and Grindon Loughs, and Newcastle Leazes Park.

**duck** (sp.) *aythya* (sp.)

A juvenile duck amongst Teal and Wigeon in Budle Bay on 5th was thought to be a possible Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis* but was flushed by a Peregrine before the identity was confirmed (CGK/GPK).

**Scaup** *Aythya marila*

Two flew N at Seaton Sluice on 7th (SSWT) and one N at Tynemouth on 13th (SPP). Two were at Holy Island on 14th (KWY), and singles at East Chevington (IK) and Hauxley Reserve (CDB) on 5th, and St Mary's on 7th (MSH). One was at Gosforth Park NR between 17th-31st (NHSN), and further inland one was at Derwent Reservoir on 1st (IFo).

**Eider** *Somateria mollissima*

A total of 39 flew N at Seaton Sluice on 14th-15th (SSWT). Large counts were few, with 106 at Stag Rocks on 26th (ADM), 86 at Cocklawburn on 13th (MHu), and 25 at Amble harbour (JMA). Five to eight were at Berwick North Shore and Blyth Harbour.



**Long-tailed Duck** *Clangula hyemalis*

Four flew N at Tynemouth (DRW), two N and two S at Seaton Sluice on 13th (SSWT), and one N at St Mary's on 30th (JPD/MPF/AWS). Three were at Holy Island on 23rd (SJH), two at Bamburgh and Stag Rocks on 12th (JD) and 25th (RB/MB), and singles at Hauxley Reserve on 25th and 27th (CDB/PCF) and Tynemouth on 18th (DRW). One was on the Long Nanny Burn, upstream from the estuary bridge on 12th (DAst). The long-stayer was at Derwent Reservoir between 1st-26th (lfo).

A Long-tailed Duck  
Hauxley NR  
Chris Barlow

**Common Scoter** *Melanitta nigra*

A total of 308 flew N at St Mary's between 4th-30th (JPD/MPF/AWS), 282 flew N and 80 S at Seaton Sluice between 1st-18th, including 149 N on 13th-14th (SSWT), 20 flew N at Boulmer on 2nd (TRD/JD), and three to 12 N at Berwick Pier, Holy Island, Snab Point and Tynemouth on several dates between 4th-14th, while 32 flew S at Spittal Bay on 15th (MHu) and one S at St Mary's. A group of 110 were off Cocklawburn on 24th (MHu), 90 were off East Chevington burn mouth on 3rd (lfo), 16 off Hauxley on 5th (DLo), and two to four off Beadnell, Druridge and Stag Rocks. Two were with Red-breasted Mergansers at the River Blyth-Sleekburn confluence on 26th (LJM).

**Velvet Scoter** *Melanitta fusca*

The vast majority of reports were of birds on active passage. A total of 22 flew N and 13 S at Seaton Sluice, including 18 N on 13th-14th and 12 S on 17th (SSWT), a total of nine flew N at Tynemouth on 13th and 18th (CB/SPP/DRW), seven N at St Mary's between 13th-30th (JBU/JPD *et al.*), six N at Snab Point on 14th (JSB/JL), two N at Meadow Haven, Berwick on 16th (MHu), and two S at Spittal Bay on 15th (MHu). Singles also flew N at Stag Rocks on 14th (AA/MH), St Mary's on 15th (MSH) and Snab Point on 28th (MH/AA). One flew S at Stag Rocks on 10th (TM). One was off Bamburgh on 16th (DAst).

**Goldeneye** *Bucephala clangula*

At St Mary's, singles N on 21st and 24th were followed by 23 N on 30th (JPD/MPF/AWS). Three flew N at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT), and a pair flew S at Newbiggin on 18th (GB/LAR). Six were at Cresswell Pond on 30th (GB), five at East Chevington on 17th (lfo), three at Druridge Pools on 25th (CDB) and three at Holy Island on 17th (KWY). One to two were also at Big Waters, Branton GP, Grindon Lough, Harbottle Lough, Haughton Strother GP, Meadow Haven (Berwick), Swallow Pond and West Ord between 2nd-26th.



A Goldeneye at Druridge Pools  
Chris Barlow

**Red-breasted Merganser** *Mergus serrator*

A total of 12 flew N at Seaton Sluice between 13th-15th (SSWT), and nine flew N and one S at St Mary's between 7th-30th (JPD/MSH *et al.*). A count of 12 at East Chevington on 3rd included eight on the sea and four on the north pool (IFo), seven were at the Blyth Estuary on 26th (LJM), six were at Holy Island on 5th and 14th (ADM/KWY), and three to five at Beadnell, Budle Bay, Ross Links and Stag Rocks. Singles were at Castle Island, Druridge and Tynemouth.

**Goosander** *Mergus merganser*

Four flew N at St Mary's on 7th (JPD/MPF/AWS). Peak concentrations were 52 offshore at Budle Point on 2nd (CGK/GPK), 42 at Branton GP on 5th (MJC), 16 at Meadow Haven (Berwick) on 23rd (MHu), 16 at West Ord on 22nd and 26th (MHu), and six to eight at Greenlee Lough (MRS) and the Tweed Estuary (MHu). Counts of four came from Derwent Reservoir, Ingram, Killingworth Lake and Mitford, and one to two were at the Blyth Estuary, Derwent Reservoir, Jesmond Dene and Newcastle Exhibition Park.

**Red-legged Partridge** *Alectoris rufa*

Two were at Harden (Biddlestone) on 2nd and one at Brandon on 14th (JMA).

**Red Grouse** *Lagopus lagopus*

On 31st 15 were present on Simonside (JMA). Seven were at Scald Law (Raylees) on 13th (IRD), four at Addycombe (Rothbury) on 27th and one on Alnwick Moor on 12th (JD).

**Black Grouse** *Tetrao tetrix*

On 12th 11 were at the traditional site at Sinderhope (Allendale) (AA). Six males were in a roadside field at Coanwood Pond on 16th (PH) when five males were at Coanwood Common (SJH) and five were in Rowan trees at nearby Wolfhills Farm (PH). On this date three males were also at Coanwood Burn and two males were at two locations on Plenneller Common.

**Grey Partridge** *Perdix perdix*

The peak counts were 26 at Waren Mill on 4th, 21 in a single covey at Low Newton on 8th (MJC), 11 on Alnwick Moor on 23rd (JR) and ten at Backworth on 1st (CGK) and Ryal on 2nd (JMA). Nine were at West Ord on 26th (MHu), eight at Holy Island on 25th (SJH), Swallow Pond on 28th (SPP) and Hemscotthill Links on 29th (LJM/PJA), seven at Fenham-le-Moor on 14th (MH/AA) and Prestwick Carr on 31st (PCF). One to six were noted at Alnham, Beal, Chevington Moor, Cresswell Pond, Low Newton, Old Hartley and St Mary's Island.

**Pheasant** *Phasianus colchicus*

On 2nd 11 (eight females) were at the gull pond on Alnwick Moor (JMA). At Hauxley ten (seven males including two 'green' birds) were present on 27th (CDB). Six (four males) watched inquisitively at a passing fox at Big Waters on 8th (GB). Six were also in Holywell Dene on 20th and at nearby Hartley West Farm on 31st (RJP). Five were in a Walbottle garden on 5th (KR/LR).

**Red-throated Diver** *Gavia stellata*

At Seaton Sluice 76 flew N and 43 S in 47 hours of sea-watching from 1st-8th (SSWT). At St Mary's Island on 7th four flew N and 13 S, on 4th six flew N and ten S, on 30th 2 flew N and 12 flew S, on 21st three flew N and eight S and on 24th seven flew N and three S (JPD/MPF/AWS). On other dates here three flew N and two S in one hour on 13th, four flew N in 30 minutes on 15th and two flew N on 27th and 31st (MSH). At Newbiggin eight flew N and one S in 45 minutes on 18th (GB) when one flew S at Bamburgh. Counts of 12 came from Tynemouth on 4th (CB) and East Chevington on 11th (IJ). On 25th 11 were at Holy Island (SJH) and ten at Warkworth Gut (NFO) and eight were at Cocklawburn on 24th (MHu). One to three were noted at Beadnell, Druridge Bay, Hauxley, Meadow Haven (Berwick), Snab Point, Spittal Bay, Stag Rocks and in the Tweed Estuary.

**Black-throated Northern Diver** *Gavia arctica*

At Seaton Sluice four flew N from 4th-17<sup>th</sup>: of these two landed on the sea on 4th and 17th respectively (SSWT). One flew N at St Mary's Island on 30th (JPD/MPF/AWS) and one was on the sea N of Snab Point on 3rd (IFo).

**Great Northern Diver** *Gavia immer*

At Seaton Sluice singles flew S on 6th/17th (SSWT) and at St Mary's Island singles flew N on 5th (DLo) and 24th (JPD/MPF/AWS). One observed on the sea off Tynemouth on 4th proceeded to fly S (CB/DRW).

**Fulmar** *Fulmarus glacialis*

The only records were of singles S on 6th and N on 14th at Seaton Sluice (SSWT) and at Bamburgh on 12th (JD).

**Sooty Shearwater** *Puffinus griseus*

Ten flew N at Tynemouth Pier on 9th (DLo). At Seaton Sluice, in a very poor year for this species, nine flew N from 6th-14th with a peak of six on 13th (SSWT). Four flew N at Beadnell on 13th (DAst). Two flew N at Holy Island on 13th (KWY) and Snab Point on 14th (JL), when singles were noted at Beadnell N at St Mary's Island and flying S at Emmanuel Head (Holy Island).

**Manx Shearwater** *Puffinus puffinus*

At Seaton Sluice light passage was noted with 32 N and 11 S from 4th-14th including 23 N on 13th (SSWT). At St Mary's Island 15 flew N and five S on 4th (JPD/MPF/AWS). On 13th, 14 flew N at Beadnell (DAst) and on 14th 10+ flew N at Snab Point (JL), four passed Beadnell (DAst) and two flew S at Holy Island (IK/KWY). Further counts from St Mary's Island



produced seven on 4th (DLo) and four N on 13th (MSH). At Tynemouth three flew N on 4th (CB/DRW) and two flew N on 13th (CB) and 26th (DRW). Singles flew S at Seahouses on 4th and Holy Island on 13th. Lingering offshore groups of 15 were noted at Budle Point on 4th (CGK/GPK) with eight at Stag Rocks on 1st (GPK).

**\*Balearic Shearwater** *Puffinus mauretanicus*

One was noted feeding offshore with Little Gulls at St Mary's Island for 35 minutes on 4th (JPD/MPF/AWS).

**Gannet** *Morus bassanus*

Large movements during the month were 1,000 N in two hours at Seaton Sluice on 13th (SSWT), 650/h N at Berwick Pier on 21st (MHu), 600/h N at Holy Island on 13th (KWY), 330/h S at Berwick Pier on 16th (MHu), 326 N in 15 minutes at Hauxley on 3rd (IFo) and 188 N in 30 minutes at St Mary's Island on 13th (MSH). At Emmanuel Head (Holy Island) 60 were in a prolonged feeding frenzy just offshore (IK). One to ten were noted at Bamburgh, Boulmer, Cresswell, Druridge, East Chevington and Stag Rocks.

**Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

At Seaton Sluice the peak movement was 13 on 9th (SSWT). The peak counts were 77 at Blyth Harbour on 17th (STH), 40 at North Shields Fish Quay on 24th (JMA), 39 at Derwent Reservoir on 25th (IFo), 34 in the Tweed Estuary on 10th (MHu), 28 at Castle Island, including 14 in a tree roost on 5th (STH/DM/IFo/PJA), 25 at Berwick North Shore on 8th and 12 at Meadow Haven (Berwick) on 26th (MHu). Nine were at Big Waters on 8th and on 'The Couple' statue frame at Newbiggin on 17th. One to six were at Amble Weir, Budle Bay, Elswick Wharf, Gosforth Park NR, Hauxley, Holywell Dene, Lemington Point (River Tyne), and near Stakeford Bridge.

**Shag** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

At Seaton Sluice five flew N and three S from 1st-18th (SSWT). In the Berwick area 18 roosted at Meadow Haven on 26th, 14 were at North Shore on 8th and five in Spittal Bay on 6th (MHu).

**Bittern** *Botaurus stellaris*

Birds were seen regularly throughout the month at Gosforth Park NR with a peak of three seen on at least two dates (NHSN).

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*

The peak count in the Lindisfarne NNR area was six at Beal on 12th (MJC/ADM). Up to five were noted at the reserve on 13 further dates. Elsewhere three were in Warkworth Gut on 23rd (STH). Two were at Cresswell Pond on 1st/3rd /4th (CGK/GPK/ADM) with a single there on five further dates. Elsewhere singles were noted at River Aln, Alnmouth, Blyth Estuary, Castle Island, Hauxley, Long Nanny, Wansbeck Estuary and inland at Tughall Mill (Ford).



A Little Egret fishes at Holy island  
by Mike Carr on 12th October

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*

During the month at Seaton Sluice one flew N and five flew S from 4th-18th (SSWT). Two flew N at Tynemouth on 11th and one flew N there on 4th (CB). The peak counts were 31 at Howdon on 17th (CB), 24 in the Tweed Estuary on 10th (MHu), and eight at Old Hartley on 6th (MNC), seven at Hauxley on 5th (CDB), North Blyth Staithes on 22nd (STH) and Holy Island on 26th (ADM), six were at Derwent Reservoir on 2nd (IFo) and five in Blyth Estuary on 8th (LJM). One to four were noted at Alnham, Amble Weir, Arcot Pond, Berwick North Shore, Castle Island, Denwick, Gosforth Park NR, Holywell Dene, Leazes Park (Newcastle) and Wark. One was found dead on the strand-line at Boulmer on 21st.

A Grey Heron surveys the shore  
Berwick  
by Mike Carr on 29th October

**Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

The peak counts were 30 at Castle Island on 3rd, where they grouped together in the presence of an otter (SPP), 25 at Caistron on 11th (JD), 18 at East Chevington on 3rd (IFo), 16 at Big Waters on 29th (GB), 11 at Hauxley on 17th (IFo) and nine at Haughton Strother GP all month (MR) and on 2nd /18th at Airy Holm Reservoir (IFo). Seven were at Druridge Pools on 5th (CDB) and six at Linton Ponds on 12th (CDH). One to four were at Blyth Estuary Bothal Pond, Boulmer, Cocklawburn Pond, Cresswell Pond, Exhibition Park, Gosforth Park NR, Grindon Lough, Killingworth Lake, Longhirst Flash, Lynemouth, Monks' House Pool, QEII Lake and Wark.

**Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps grisegena*

At Seaton Sluice singles flew N on 4th/13th (SSWT) and one flew N at St Mary's Island on 7th (JPD/MPF/AWS). The peak count at Derwent Reservoir was seven on 1st with the last bird being seen on 24th (IFo). Four were at Maiden's Hall Lake on 5th (IK). Two were at Stag Rocks on 5th (BRS), QEII Lake on 7th (LJM) and Killingworth Lake on 29th (GB). Singles were noted at East Chevington Pool and Holy Island, on the sea at East Chevington and Tynemouth and in the Tweed Estuary.

**Red-necked Grebe** *Podiceps grisegena*

One flew N at Seaton Sluice on 4th (SSWT). One was in Holy Island Harbour on 12th (IK).

**Slavonian Grebe** *Podiceps auritus*

Five were at Holy Island on 23rd (SJH). Two were on Widdrington Moor Lake on 12th/25th (JL/ADMc) with singles noted here until at least 30th (many observers). A single was at the unusual location of Branton GP on 18th (JD/PRF) and one was offshore at Howick on 25th (TF/JFa).

**Red Kite** *Milvus milvus*

The first record this month was a bird at Wylam on the 1st being mobbed by *corvids* (JSB) and other single birds were near Whittonstall on 4th and at Low Waskerley on 11th (IFo).

**White-tailed Eagle** *Haliaeetus albicilla*

An untagged juvenile was found on the mudflats West of St Cuthbert's Island (Holy Island) on 12th and drifted N towards Beal Point (MJC/ADM/IK). This sighting was the first confirmed occurrence on Holy Island since late 1881 when one spent several weeks on the flats preying on geese.



Two photographs by Mike Carr of the historic White-tailed Eagle sighting  
Holy Island on 12th October



**Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*

A juvenile at Cresswell Pond on 7th (TB) was the only record received.

**Hen Harrier** *Circus cyaneus*

A female was seen flying N up the dunes at Cresswell Pond on 4th (ADMc) and a ring-tail was also seen there on the 5th (DLo), and a male was seen near Glanton on 12 (C Buckley). Two juveniles were noted at two confidential sites on 16th and 18th (PH/MH).

**Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*

Two birds were noted at Spindlestone on 3rd (CGK/GPK), on Holy Island on 7th and 18th (MJC/ADM), East Cramlington LNR on 8th (STH), Tynemouth on 9th (CB) and at Longbenton (Newcastle) on 25th (ADM). Single birds were noted at 29 sites during the Month.

**Common Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*

Ten+ birds were seen at West Chevington with eight in the air together on 24th (MH) and five were at Melkridge on 8th (SJH). Four birds were seen at Scotch Gill (Morpeth) on 5th (DM/STH/PJA/IFo), Derwent Reservoir on 23rd (IFo), and at Widdrington Moor and Prestwick Carr on 24th (JPD/MPF/AWS). One to three birds were at 19 sites.

**Rough-legged Buzzard** *Buteo lagopus*

On 23rd a juvenile drifted N near West Chevington Farm (ADMc).

**Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus*

Three to four birds were at Swallow Pond on several dates (SPP/JPD/MPF/AWS) and three were at Gosforth Park NR (NHSN) throughout the month and at Arcot Pond on 12th (LJM). One to two birds were also at Big Waters, Cresswell Pond, East Chevington, Holy Island, St Mary's Island and Tynemouth.

**Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*

Arcot Pond had the highest counts with a peak of 47 on 12th (LJM), 32 birds were at Backworth Pond on 1st (CGK), 21 were at Haughton Strother GP (Humshaugh) on 14th (MR), 20 at Wallington Hall on 27th (PRM) and 17 were on the River Wansbeck on 5th (DM/STH/PJA/IFo). One to 11 birds were also at Castle Island, Exhibition Park (Newcastle), Gosforth Park NR, Hauxley NWT, Leazes Park (Newcastle), Linton Pond, Low Newton and QEII CP.

**Coot** *Fulica atra*

There were Some big counts again this month with 146 at QEII CP on 12th (CDH), 137 at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 23rd (JPD/MPF/AWS) and 108 at Killingworth Lake on 18th (CDH). Other high counts involved 88 at Big Waters on 19th (GB), 42 at Marden Quarry (Whitley Bay) on 5th (GB) and 23 at Bothal Pond on 24th (TD). One to eleven birds were also seen at Arcot Pond, Druridge Bay CP, Exhibition Park (Newcastle), Gosforth Park and Leazes Park (Newcastle).

**Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus*

The high-tide roost at Holy Island numbered 300 on 14th (KWY) and St Mary's Island held 119 on 2nd (ASJ). The Blyth area held 100 (56 estuary and 44 North Blyth staithes) on 22nd (STH) and 56 were on Berwick North Shore on 8th (MHu). Some 24 were on the Tweed Estuary on 10th (MHu), 20 were in Budle Bay on 18th (JMA) and three were noted at both Snab Point and Stag Rocks.

**Golden Plover** *Pluvialis apricaria*

Large numbers were present throughout the month in the Holy Island area, peaking at 4,000-5,000 from the causeway on 15th (ADM) and a high of 2,000 was noted at Grindon Lough on 17th (PH) and St Mary's Island on 30th (MSH), with additional high counts noted at all three of the aforementioned locations. Elsewhere, 800 were at Beadnell (Annstead Farm) on 15th (DAst), 500+ at East Chevington north pool on 24th (JSB/EC), 350 at Newbiggin on 17th (IFo), 300 at Boulmer on 4th (NFO), 250 at Stobswood on 5th (DM *et al.*) and 150 moved S at Tynemouth on 25th (CB). Counts of 100-135 were recorded from Broomlee Lough, Newcastle Town Moor, Shoreston and Tynemouth (100 S on 11th), 75 were on the Coquet Estuary on 30th and 25-45 were noted at Big Waters, Cresswell Pond, Derwent Reservoir and Eachwick, with lower numbers at three additional sites.

**Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*

Typically, peaks came from the north and involved 37 at Holy Island on 25th (SJH), 23 at Boulmer on 20th (RB/MB), 21 at Fenham Mill on 18th (ASJ), 14 at Berwick North Shore on 8th (MHu) and Beadnell on 25th (ASJ), whilst singles were on the Sleek Burn (Blyth Estuary) and at Snab Point and St Mary's (flying N on 13th).

**Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus*

Very well reported this month, with the highest count occurring at Derwent Reservoir with 1,520 on 10th (IFo). Several good counts took place at Grindon Lough which included 1,300 on 12th (MSH), ca.1,100 on 15th and 1,500+ on 29th (SJH). Further flocks were also noted across the county with 545 at Haughton Strother GP on 7th (MR), 500 at Broomlee Lough on 12th (MRS), 450 at Boulmer on 4th (NFO), 410 on the Tweed Estuary on 10th (MHu), 300+ at Monks' House Pool on 9th (BRS) and Annstead Farm, Beadnell on 15th (DAst), 259 at Cresswell Pond on 5th (PCF) and 250 at Arcot Pond on 29th (LJM/PJA). Elsewhere, 120-194 were counted at the Blyth Estuary, Bothal Pond, Cocklawburn, East Fleetham and Prestwick Carr, with 40-80 at Big Waters, Coquet Estuary, Holy Island and Throckley, and smaller numbers at a further five sites.



A Grey Plover at Druridge Pools  
Janet Dean on 9th October

**Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius*

A late juvenile was seen at Haughton Strother GP on 4th and 8th (MR).

**Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*

High counts at Holy Island included 150 on 23rd and 200 on 25th (SLH), whilst peaks elsewhere included 60 at St Mary's Island on 4th (DLo), 56 at Long Nanny on 7th (TM), 26-29 at Berwick North Shore, East Chevington and Tynemouth. Thirteen were in Druridge Bay at Chibburn mouth and one to three were seen at Boulmer and Cocklawburn.

**Dotterel** *Charadrius morinellus*

Two were found on Holy Island on 7th; the birds were flushed from short grass between The Quarry and Greenshield Excavations (MC/MJC).

**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*

A late bird was on the Rocket Pool fields at Holy Island on 21st (SJH).

**Curlew** *Numenius arquata*

The high-tide roost at Lindisfarne NNR numbered ca.200 on 5th (AB/LB) and 175 were in a winter cereal field at Boulmer on 7th (TM). A total of 130 were at Old Hartley on 6th (MNC) and birds on the estuaries included 104 on the Tweed on 10th (MHu), 86 on the Blyth on 19th (STH) and 75 on the Coquet on 30th (JMA). Caistron held 75 on 11th (JD), 27 were at Cocklawburn on 13th (MHu), 20 at Ross on 30th (JMA), 18 at Berwick North Shore on 8th (MHu) and 11 at Howdon on 6th (CB). Elsewhere, ten were at Seaton Sluice, eight at Hauxley and one to four at Castle Island, Elswick Wharf (Tyne), Grindon Lough, Holywell Dene, Prestwick Carr and St Mary's Island.

**Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa*

Varying numbers were present on the Rocket Fields/Harbour area throughout the month and peaked at 18 on 23rd (SJH). East Chevington also attracted a group late in the month which numbered 12 on 24th (JSB/EC) and 11 on 28th (AA/MH). Six, including five heading S, were noted at Cresswell Pond on 30th (ADMc) and four were here on 24th (JSB/EC) with one to two on two other dates. The Blyth Estuary continued to hold small numbers with one to five present all month, three were at Hauxley NWT on 3rd, and one to three at Arcot Pond until 29th. Two were on the Tweed Estuary on 10th with singles also noted at Big Waters and Budle Bay.

**Bar-tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica*

Some 700+ were noted at Lindisfarne NNR on 11th (ASJ), five were at St Mary's Island on 30th (MSH) and four flew N at nearby Seaton Sluice on 14th (SSWT).

**Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*

The Berwick area held the most with 64 at North Shore on 8th and 54 at Little Beach on 23rd (MHu); 41 were at Boulmer on 21st, 20 at North Blyth on 22nd and 11-13 at times at Cocklawburn, R Tweed Estuary, Snab Point and Stag Rocks.



**Knot** *Calidris canutus*

A high-tide roost at Holy Island held 1500 on 14th (KWY) and the roost at St Cuthbert's Island had around 800 on 13th and on several other dates (IK); 600+ were noted at Lindisfarne on 11th (ASJ). Ten were at Boulmer on 19th and singles at Druridge Pools and St Mary's on 5th.

**Ruff** *Calidris pugnax*

Most reports came from Grindon Lough: two on 4th, four on 5th and three to 12th then singles on 17th and 21st (PRM *et al.*). Two were at Low Newton on 11th (GPK) and singletons at Cresswell Pond on 4th, Monks' House Pool on 9th and R Tweed Estuary on 10th.

**Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea*

Late singles were found at Seahouses on 4th (TM) and in Budle Bay on 5th (CGK/GPK).

**Sanderling** *Calidris alba*

Holy Island held 49 on 25th (SJH), 40 were at Newbiggin on 30th (GB), 30 at East Chevington Burn mouth on 11th (GB) and 22 at Berwick North Shore on 8th (MHu). St Mary's had 11 on 4th and Boulmer ten on 20th.

**Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*

Holy Island hosted 250 on 25th (SJH) whilst 106 were on North Blyth staithes with an additional 16 in R Blyth Estuary on 22nd (STH); 82 were at Berwick North Shore on 8th (MHu). Boulmer and Budle Bay had 30-40 at times with 16 or fewer at Berwick (Little Beach), Cresswell Pond, East Chevington, Grindon Lough, Hauxley NWT, Holywell Pond and R Tweed Estuary.

**Purple Sandpiper** *Calidris maritima*

The peaks at Stag Rocks were of 39 on 11th (ASJ) and 37 on 26th (ADM) and the most at Tynemouth was 15 on 29th (DRW); 12 were at Beadnell on 25th. Six or fewer were seen at Berwick, Boulmer, Craster, Newbiggin and St Mary's.

**Little Stint** *Calidris minuta*

At Cresswell Pond, after singles on 1st and 3rd (MSH), two were noted on there on 4th (IRD) and 11th (GB). Another single was found at Low Newton scrape on 17th (DAst).

**Grey Phalarope** *Phalaropus fulicarius*

An unfortunate individual found at Big Waters on 15th (ISD/JCD *per* GB) was soon snatched off the water by a Sparrowhawk (MLo)!

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*

A juvenile was at Boulmer on 4th (NFO).

**Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*

One was at Haughton Strother GP throughout (MR). Other singles were noted at Whittle Dene Reservoirs (AA), Gosforth Park NR and adjacent pool, both on 11th (NHSN), at Longhirst Flash on 12th (TD) and at Linton Pond also on 12th (CDH).

**Spotted Redshank** *Tringa erythropus*

Two, adult and juvenile, were in Budle Bay on 1st (GPK) with one remaining to 11th. One was at Holy Island 23rd to 27th (SJH) and other singles appeared at Cresswell Pond on 30th (ADMc) and at East Chevington on 31st (JSB/EC/JFa).

**Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*

In Budle Bay, after four on 4th (TM), seven were seen there on 5th (CGK/GPK) and also on 5th two were noted near Bamburgh at Waren Mill (AB/LB); two were at Beal on 12th (MJC/ADM). At Derwent Reservoir two were present on 1st/2nd, one on 4th and one on 11th (IFo). Singles were found at Castle Island on 3rd, Arcot Pond on 5th, West Hartford on 8th, R Tweed Estuary on 10th, North Charlton on 14th, Holy Island on 25th and at Beal Point on 29th.

**Redshank** *Tringa totanus*

Holy Island Harbour Pools held 200 on 11th (KWY), 196 were in R Tweed Estuary on 10th (MHu), 146 at Berwick North Shore on 8th (MHu) and 114 on North Blyth staithes plus 28 in R Blyth Estuary on 22nd (STH). The maximum count at Howdon was 87 on 17th, 60 were at Tynemouth Haven on 24th and 50 at Amble Marina on 29th; eight to 23 in Budle Bay, at Castle Island, Cresswell Pond, Monks' House Pool and R Tyne at Newcastle Business Park and one or two at Bothal Pond and Stag Rocks. Late inland singles were found at Derwent Reservoir on 1st and Haughton Strother GP on 26th.

**Jack Snipe** *Lymnocyptes minimus*

Two were at Holy Island on 17th (MJC). One was trapped and ringed at Bamburgh on 9th (BRS) and other singles were found at East Chevington on 12th (JL), Gosforth Park NR area on 14th (NHSN), St Mary's on 23rd (JPD/MPF/AWS) and at East Chevington on 31st (IRD).

**Woodcock** *Scolopax rusticola*

There was a clear influx late in the month, particularly on 30th when ten were found at Holy Island (MJC), two flew in off the sea at Tynemouth (CGK/GPK), two or three were found at Newbiggin (GB) and singles noted at Bamburgh, Cresswell and St Mary's; one came in off the sea at Snab Point on 28th. Earlier singles came in off the sea at Hauxley and Holy Island on 7th and other singles were recorded at Bamburgh, Fontburn Reservoir and Howdon.



A Redshank glides in at Berwick on 29th October  
by Mike Carr

#### **Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*

The larger concentrations were of 33 at Monks' House Pool on 9th (BRS), 30+ at Holy Island on 7th (MJC/ADM), 29 at Haughton Strother GP on 20th (MR), 27 at Grindon Lough on 28th (PRM), up to 23 at Gosforth Park (NHSN), 19 at Arcot Pond on 12th (LJM), 18 at Prestwick Carr on 11th (PCF), 18 at Hauxley NWT on 17th (IFo) and 14 at Linton Pond on 12th (CDH). Smaller numbers, nine or fewer, were at a further ten localities, mostly near the coast and three flew in off the sea high up at Tynemouth on 13th.

#### **Pomarine Skua** *Stercorarius pomarinus*

Peak passage was around mid-month: at Seaton Sluice 31 flew N and two S during 13th to 17th, including 27 N (three adults and 24 juveniles) on 13th, eight flew S at St Mary's on 21st (JPD *et al.*), six were off Tynemouth on 13th (DRW/CB), six N at both Newbiggin and Snab Point on 14th (ADM/JL) and two off Newbiggin on 17th (MH). Also singles were off Newbiggin on 13th, Holy Island on 14th and Tynemouth on 16th. Earlier, singles were seen from Hauxley on 3rd, St Mary's on 4th, Stag Rocks on 5th and Tynemouth on 6th.

#### **Arctic Skua** *Stercorarius parasiticus*

At Seaton Sluice a total of 42 flew N and ten S, the biggest day being 13th with 26 N and two S (SSWT). Eight flew N in one hour at St Mary's on 13th (MSH) and seven were off Tynemouth the same day (DRW) with also on 13th three at Beadnell and two at Holy Island. Five were noted at Stag Rocks on 1st, four at St Mary's on 4th, two at Tynemouth on 4th and two at St Mary's on 21st. Singles were seen from Stag Rocks on 8th and 14th and Snab Point on 14th. At Hauxley one flew in off the sea, circled once over Hauxley NWT and carried on inland south westwards on 3rd (IFo).

#### **Long-tailed Skua** *Stercorarius longicaudus*

An adult flew N at St Mary's on 4th (PRM) and a juvenile flew N at Seaton Sluice on 13th (MHe/BB).

#### **Great Skua** *Stercorarius skua*

A total of 63 flew N at Seaton Sluice, 34 on 13th and 29 on 14th (SSWT). This N movement was reflected elsewhere: 11 at St Mary's (JBU), ten at Tynemouth (CB/DRW) on 13th, ten at Snab Point (JL) and six at Berwick Pier (MHu) on 14th. Also on 13th three flew N at Holy Island, whilst on 14th four moved S at Stag Rocks, four flew high over Fenham Flats towards the mainland, three were off Beadnell and two flew S at Holy Island. Outside this main two days of passage, one flew S at Tynemouth on 4th and one moved S at St Mary's on 21st.

#### **Auk** *sp*

Significant movements were recorded at Seaton Sluice on three days, the 1st, 660N & 480S in one hour, 13th, 700N in two hours and 18th, 600S in one hour (SSWT). Small numbers moved S at Emmanuel Head (Holy Island) on 14th during a NE gale, with Puffins (IK).

#### **Puffin** *Fratercula arctica*

At Emmanuel Head (Holy Island) on 14th, 300 per hour, mainly juveniles, moved S during a NE gale accompanied by small numbers of other Auk species (IK); elsewhere, nine moved N at Seaton Sluice on 1st (SSWT) and seven S at St Mary's Island on 21st (JPD/MPF/AWS). One to seven were noted at Beadnell, Seaton Sluice and St Mary's Island on other dates (JPD/MPF/AWS/DLo/DAs).



**Black Guillemot** *Cephus grylle*

Three records each involved single birds at Stag Rocks on 8th (TM) and at St Mary's Island and Tynemouth on 26th (JBU/DRW), the latter two probably sightings of the same bird.

**Razorbill** *Alca torda*

At least 20 were on the sea at St Mary's Island on 4th (MSH) and a single bird flew N at Holy Island on 13th (KWY).

**Little Auk** *Alle alle*

Three flew N at Newbiggin Church Point on 14th (ADM/TF) and a single was on the sea at St Mary's Island (AC/undated record).

**Guillemot** *Uria aalge*

On 13th, 200/h moved N at Holy Island (KWY) and on the following day 120/h passed N at Berwick Pier with 86/h N at nearby Spittal Bay on 15th (MHu). Elsewhere, up to ten were recorded on earlier dates at Bamburgh, Berwick Meadow Haven, Boulmer and St Mary's Island (TRD/JD/MHu/DLo).

**Black Tern** *Chlidonias niger*

Two were seen at Seaton Sluice on 4th, one moving S and a second lingering offshore for most of the day (SSWT). One or two, possibly the birds from Seaton Sluice, were recorded on the same day at St Mary's Island (JPD/MPF/AWS/PRM/MSH).

**Sandwich Tern** *Sterna sandvicensis*

At Seaton Sluice a total of 21 moved S from 1st-9th with 13 of these on 9th (SSWT). One to four were also at Bamburgh Stag Rocks, Boulmer, East Chevington, St Mary's Island and Tynemouth, all from 1st-14th apart from the latest record, a single at Bamburgh on 26th (ADM).

**Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*

Movement past Seaton Sluice comprised a total of 18, mainly juveniles, from 1st-16th. At Budle Point 35 gathered on 4th (CGK/GPK) but few were still present elsewhere comprising only one to three at Bamburgh, Holy Island, St Mary's Island and Tynemouth (CB/CBD/IK/DLo/DRW) from 1st-18th with the latest record from St Mary's Island of two on 21st (JPD/MPF/AWS).

**Roseate Tern** *Sterna dougallii*

An adult and juvenile lingered at Budle Point on 2nd and the last record was of a single adult there on 4th (CGK/GPK).

**Arctic Tern** *Sterna paradisaea*

A maximum gathering of 65 occurred at Budle Point on 4th (CGK/GPK) but thereafter numbers declined rapidly with one to four being seen at five localities namely Beadnell, the Berwick area, Cocklawburn and Tynemouth up to 16th (DAst/CB/MSH/MHu/DLo) with the latest monthly records coming on 21st, comprising three flying N at Berwick Pier (MHu) and two at St Mary's Island (JPD/MPF/AWS).

**\*Sabine's Gull** *Xema sabini*

An adult and a juvenile flew N in the late afternoon at Seaton Sluice on 13th (AC/SSWT).

**Kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla*

Movements of 300 S in 1.5 hours on 7th and 180 N in one hour on 9th took place at Seaton Sluice (SSWT) and 360 per hour flew N at Berwick Pier on 21st (MHu). On 16th, at least 500 roosted on the sea on the north side of St Mary's Island (MSH) and up to 16 were recorded on three days at Berwick Meadow Haven and Spittal Bay (MHu). An unusual record was of three adults and 12 juveniles flying W up river at Humshaugh before settling on the pond at Haughton Strother GP on 26th (MR).

**Black-headed Gull** *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

Large three-figure gatherings comprised 425 at Bothal Pond (TD), 365 on the River Tweed Estuary (MHu), 286 at Longhirst Flash (TD), 200 at Big Waters (GB) and Haggerston (JMA) with smaller groups of 100-200 at Arcot Pond, Amble Weir, Blyth Battery, Berwick North Shore, Castle Island, Leazes Park Lake, the River Tyne from Elswick Wharf-Newcastle Business Park and Whitley Bay. Up to 100 were at seven widespread coastal and inland localities elsewhere. A Norwegian-ringed bird J1TL was at Ladyburn Lake on 29th (CDB).

**Little Gull** *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

Extremely well reported. The unusually large influx which occurred during the last week in September continued well into this month and sightings at Seaton Sluice totalled 435N and 361S between 1st-18th, peaking on 4th-6th. At Tynemouth on 4th, 276 flew N in three hours whilst at least 250 lingered offshore (CB/DRW *et al.*) and at Beadnell counts of 300+ and 282 were made on 13th and 14th respectively (DAst). Later in the month as many as 100+ were still present offshore at St Mary's Island on 21st-26th with 61 on 30th (JBU/JPD/MPF/AWS *et al.*). Further north far fewer were recorded with up to 14 seen at Bamburgh, Berwick, Boulmer, Holy Island and Seahouses.

**Mediterranean Gull** *Larus melanocephalus*

Six moved past Seaton Sluice from 4th-13th (SSWT). Newbiggin recorded a maximum of 20 on 5th (STH) with lower numbers up to 14 on various other dates throughout (STH/ADMc) and Cresswell Pond hosted the species on a number of days with a maximum of 16 adults/immatures on 3rd (ADMc *et al.*). One to three were also noted at Castle Island, Druridge Pools, Haughton Strother GP, Howick, Low Newton, the Long Nanny, St Mary's Island, Swallow Pond and Widdrington Moor Lake.



A Mediterranean Gull looks bored at a favoured site  
Newbiggin Beach by Chris Barlow

**Common Gull** *Larus canus*

The usual autumn roost at Budle Point contained 4,300 on 3rd (CGK), a smaller gathering at Haughton Strother GP held 900 on 4th (MR) and 180 were counted in a roost at West Ord on 9th with 26 from a WeBS survey on the River Tweed Estuary on 10th (MHu). Few reports from elsewhere with only one to eight at five other localities.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus graelsii*

The Budle Point roost still contained 23 on 3rd (CGK) and 19 were on the River Tyne from Elswick Wharf-Newcastle Business Park on 2nd (DM). One to five were noted at Airey Holm Reservoir (near Shotleyfield), Bothal Pond, Castle Island, Cramlington, Derwent Reservoir, the River Tweed Estuary and Swallow Pond.

**Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus argenteus*

The largest recorded gathering was 840 from a WeBS survey on the River Tweed estuary on 10th (MHu) and three-figure counts elsewhere were 450-550 at Budle Bay and Point on 30th and 3rd respectively (JMA/CGK), 250 on the Coquet Estuary on 30th and 100 at the North Shields Fish Quay on 30th (JMA). Three other sites held 50-100 with up to 50 at another ten localities.

**Great Black-backed Gull** *Larus marinus*

At Woodhorn at least 700 loafed in a field of winter wheat by the north flash on 3rd (IFo), 150 were on the Tyne at Howdon on 6th (CB) and 150 in the Coquet Estuary on 30th (JMA). One to ten were recorded at Berwick North Shore, Budle Bay, Castle Island, Grindon Lough, Hauxley, the Tweed Estuary, the River Tyne at Newcastle Business Park and Widdrington Moor Lake where one attempted unsuccessfully to drown a juvenile Herring Gull (MSH).

**Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon** *Columba livia*

102 were at Eldon Square (Newcastle) and 80 at Elswick Shopping Centre on 1st (PCF) with 68 on Environment Agency at nearby Newcastle Business Park on 2nd, 82 at Stakeford Road Bridge (Ashington) on 5th (DM) and 58 on a roof at Killingworth on 18th (LJM).

**Stock Dove** *Columba oenas*

The maximum count for the month was 96 at Howdon on 18th with 56 there on 4th (CB). 35 were at Tughall Mill on 7th (TM), 19 at Big Waters on 5th (GB), eight at Backworth on 1st (CGK) and two at Arcot Pond on 12th (LJM).

**Woodpigeon** *Columba palumbus*

High counts of 200 at Scremerston on 30th, 75 at St Mary's Island on 28th (JMA), 26 at Howdon on 10th (CB) and five in the observer's garden at Walbottle on 19th (KR/LR).

**Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*

An impressive 45 at Newton on 9th (ALT), ten seen in a garden at Northburn (Cramlington) during the month (LJM) and two to seven at Dinnington, Eachwick, Hauxley, Tranwell, Red Row with two predated by Sparrowhawk in a garden at Walbottle (KR/LR).

**Barn Owl** *Tyto alba*

All reports of singles at Waren Mill on 5th, St Mary's Island on 7th, Rennington on 8th, Wooler on 12th, Holy Island on 12th & 30th, Northumberland Park (North Shields) on 14th, Christon Bank, Embleton and Warenford on 16th, Backworth and Rothley Craggs on 21st and Simonburn on 23rd. The second broods of three and five at Holy Island both fledged successfully by the end of month (IK).

**Little Owl** *Athene noctua*

Two were present at Shiremoor all month (CGK) and at Derwent Reservoir on 2nd (IFo). A single was at High Chibburn on 17th (JSB/EC) and a road casualty at Pegswood by-pass on 1st (IRD).

**Tawny Owl** *Strix aluco*

Two males and a female called at Wark (N. Tyne) on 4th (PRM), two heard each evening from 1st-12th at Waren Mill (GPK), Bedlington on 10th (JR), Northumberland Park (North Shields) all month (MNC) and Dinnington on 15th (PCF). Singles were heard regularly at Wark during the month and at Bamburgh GC, Haughton Strother, Holywell Dene and Tynemouth.

**Long-eared owl** *Asio otus*

Singles were at the Snook (Holy Island) on 16th (ADM), mobbed at St Mary's Island on 19th before flying west (ASJ) and hunting the Wanneys on the same date (MD).

**Short-eared owl** *Asio flammeus*

Two birds came in off the sea at St Mary's Island on 30th (JPD/MPF/AWS) with singles 'in off' at the Snook on 14th (ADM) and Emmanuel Head (Holy Island) on 15th (IK). Singles hunted at St Mary's Island on 14th (DLo), at the Snook (Holy Island) on 16th & 26th (ADM) and Backworth on 31st (CGK/GPK).

**Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*

At Haughton Strother GP (Humshaugh) two were present all month (MR), at Castle Island on 5th & 12th (DM/STH/IFo/PJA/ASH) and Branton GP on 15th (JD). Numerous sightings of singles from 18 different widely spread localities from Tweedmouth to Tynemouth and inland to Bakethin Reservoir.

**Green Woodpecker** *Picus viridis*

During the month one called on several days at Rothbury (TRD/JD).

**Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major*

A high of four at Wallington on 27th (PRM) with two at Leazes Park (Newcastle) on 1st (DM), Grindon Lough on 11th (PRM), St Mary's Island on 15th (MSH), East Cramlington LNR on 28th (LJM) and Bamburgh on 29th (BRS). Singles were at 12 other widespread locations.

**Falcon (sp)**

A very large, almost buzzard sized grey brown falcon with a black forehead and moustachials and white cheeks was at Beal Point (Lindisfarne) on 31st (MJC) was possibly an escaped Saker/Peregrine hybrid.

**Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*

Holy Island once again had the highest numbers with up to seven birds on several dates (MJC/ADM), six birds were at Featherstone Common on 18th (MH), Prestwick Carr had four on 5th (PCF) and four were also at Cobalt Business Park (North Shields) on 28th (CGK). One or two were also at 17 other sites.

A Kestrel wind hovers  
by Alan Jack





**Merlin** *Falco columbarius*

Two birds were at the Snook (Holy Island) on 15th & 30th (MJC). Singles were also seen at Alnwick, Bamburgh GC, Beal, Berwick Pier, Budle Bay, Cresswell Pond, Grindon Lough, Holy Island, Holywell Pond, Long Nanny (Newton), Monks' House Pool, Newbiggin, Prestwick Carr & Tynemouth

**Peregrine** *Falco peregrinus*

Two birds were seen in Budle Bay on 1st (CGK/GPK) and all other sightings this Month involved single birds on or near the coast at Beal, Boulmer, Fenham Flats, Holy Island, Newbiggin, Tynemouth and Widdrington Moor Lake. Inland birds were seen at Bewick Moor, Derwent Reservoir, Grindon Lough, Hazelrigg (Wideopen) and Humshaugh.

**Great Grey Shrike** *Lanius excubitor*

One seen at Stelling Hall on 15th but not subsequently (MR).

**Magpie** *Pica pica*

Peak numbers at Howdon with 21 on 15th (CB), 11 at Wansbeck Estuary on 10th (GB), nine in the observer's garden at Walbottle on 26th (KR/LR), eight in Alnwick garden on 18th (JMA), four at Hauxley on 27th and two at Eachwick on 4th. One to two were at Holy Island from 15th to 30th where they are regarded as rare (MJC/ADM/IK) and a leucistic bird was at Rothbury church on 2nd (JMA).

**Jay** *Garrulus glandarius*

During the month seven were at Gosforth Park NR (NHSN), with three noted on 18th (GB). Two were at Bamburgh, Big Waters, East Sleekburn, Armstrong Park (Newcastle), Stakeford, Swallow Pond, Wansbeck Estuary and Wallington Hall with singles at 27 other widespread locations six of which were in the Cramlington area.

A Merlin watches the sunrise at Holy Island on 12th October by Mike Carr

**Jackdaw** *Corvus monedula*

A large gathering of 132 on fields at Beacon Hill (Cramlington) on 18th (DM), around 50 trying to cross to the mainland at The Heugh (Holy Island) repeatedly swept back by a south westerly gale on 19th (IK), 24 the maximum count at Howdon on 20th (CB), 20 at Hipsburn on 30th (JMA) and eight the peak monthly count in a garden at Walbottle on 26th (KR/LR).

**Rook** *Corvus frugilegus*

100 at Stocksfield on 18th and Alnham on 22nd, 75 on the roof of Co-op (Alnwick) on 2nd and 15 at Warkworth on 30th (JMA).

**Carrion Crow** *Corvus corone*

The Co-op (Alnwick) hosted 75 on the roof on 2nd, 40 were at North Shields on 24th (JMA), 41 at Beacon Hill (Cramlington) on 18th, 36 at Howdon on 20th, 34 at Tynemouth on 16th (CB), 15 at West Hartford on 2nd (STH) and three to four at Walbottle and Hauxley.

**Raven** *Corvus corax*

A party frequented coastal locations with three at Tynemouth on 24th until 26th and one to two on dates from 20th till 28th (ASJ/SPP/DRW *et al.*) along with two at Holy Island from 13th till 27th (MJC/ADM *et al.*). Inland two were at Walltown Quarry on 10th (AJR) and singles at Ford Moss and Grindon Lough.

A splendid Raven  
Tynemouth  
Duncan Watson  
25th October



**Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus*

Fall conditions mid-month gave high counts on Holy Island from 15th to 17th, the peak being around 98 on 16th (MJC/ADM). 40 were at Low Newton on 8th and inland at Wark (N. Tyne) on 24th (PRM), with ten trapped and ringed at Bamburgh during the month (BRS), at Grindon Lough on 10th and Newbiggin on 18th. One to nine were at these and sixteen other widespread localities.



A Goldcrest at Holy Island  
Mike Carr on 8th October

**Blue Tit** *Cyanistes caeruleus*

A mixed tit flock at Haughton Strother (Humshaugh) on 14th held a minimum of 48 (MR) with three at Hauxley on 27th (CDB). Nest records for Low Carritheth had six pairs laying 49 eggs with 34 fledged (JRI).

**Great Tit** *Parus major*

The mixed tit flock at Haughton Strother (Humshaugh) on 14th held a minimum of 18 (MR) with three at Hauxley on 27th (CDB) and adult males noted at two locations on Holy Island on 10th (IK). Nest records for Tasset had 15 pairs laying 102 eggs with 73 hatching and 65 fledged. Low Carritheth had two pairs laying 12 eggs with 10 fledged (JRI).

**Coal Tit** *Periparus ater*

Up to three in an Old Hartley garden during the month (RJP), at Prestwick Carr on 5th (PCF) and Low Newton on 8th (PRM). Two were at Grindon Lough on 10th and Hauxley on 27th with one in a Walbottle garden regularly.

**Willow Tit** *Poecile montanus*

Four fed together at Prestwick Carr on 24th with three nearby at Dinnington on 18th (PCF), two at Big Waters on 24th (GPK) and singles in an Old Hartley garden on four dates, Linden Hall (Longhorsley) on 5th & 12th, Derwent Reservoir on 10th & 11th, Newbiggin on 17th and Beacon Lane (Cramlington) on 18th.

**Marsh Tit** *Poecile palustris*

Two at Spindlestone on 3rd only the observer's second record at this location (CGK/GPK), a single regularly in a garden at Rothbury and at Wallington on 21st (JD).

**Bearded Tit** *Panurus biarmicus*

The Lough (Holy Island) hosted five on 11th (ASJ) falling to three on 24th and one on 25th (SJH).

**Skylark** *Alauda arvensis*

Notable passage all month with the peak 78 S over Holy Island on 30th and counts over 50 on three other dates (MJC/ASJ), 68 S in one hour at Derwent Reservoir on 4th (IFo), 63 at St Mary's Island on 23rd (JPD/MPF/AS), 45 in two hours at Spittal (Newbiggin) on 12th (GB), 40 at Beal on 12th (MJC/ADM), 37 at Airy Holm Reservoir (Shotley Field) on 12th (IFo) and 32 in one hour at East Cramlington LNR on 8th (STH). Three to 30 were at these and 13 other widespread locations.

**Shore Lark** *Eremophila alpestris*

One at Druridge beach on 7th (JPD/MPF/AS) and at East Chevington burn mouth on 10th (GB/IJ).

*hirundine sp*

One flew south at Low Newton on 8th (MJC).



**Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia*

A single late bird at Tynemouth on 10th (CB).

**Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*

Good numbers moving south in the first week, the peak 50 per hour at Backworth on 1st (CGK), 32 S at Craster on 5th (TM), 18 at Cresswell Pond on 1st (IRD), 16 at Holy Island on 7th (MJC/ADM) with one to eight at ten other coastal locations till 19th. Four flew south at Swallow Pond on 10th (SPP), two at Haughton Strother on 8th and a single at Gosforth Park NR on 4th with the last record being one south along the dunes at Hauxley on 25th (CDB).

In Upper Coquetdale 30 pairs laid 231 eggs with 186 young fledged which includes 21 pairs with second clutches of 91 eggs and 68 young fledged (JRI).

**House Martin** *Delichon urbica*

A flock of 46 prepared for migration at East Ord (Berwick) on 3rd (MHu), ten at Fullers Walk (Alnwick) on 3rd and at Seaton Point on 4th (JMA) with eight at Gosforth Park NR on the same date (NHSN). Six remained at East Ord on 5th, the last being seen on 8th and a pair still attended young in nest at Stonelaw (Cramlington) on 4th (DM). Singles were at Town Moor (Newcastle) on 3rd (GB), Tynemouth on 10th (CB) and the last seen at Holy Island on 18th (ASJ).

**Long-tailed Tit** *Aegithalos caudatus*

The largest gathering was 22 at Backworth on 22nd (GPK); 17 were at Budle Bay on 3rd (CGK/GPK), 16 at Cramlington on 2nd (PCF) and 15 at Grindon Lough on 7th and 10th (PRM) and at Tynemouth on 13th (CB). Elsewhere 14 were noted at Hexham on 9th and 11 near Humshaugh on 14th, Prestwick Carr on 29th and at Stakeford on 5th. Flocks of seven to ten were also reported from Airy Holm Reservoir (Shotleyfield), Bamburgh, Big Waters, Monkseaton and St Mary's Island; four were at Holywell Dene and two at Hauxley NR. More unusual were five on Holy Island with Blue Tits and Goldcrests on 10th (IK).

**Yellow-browed Warbler** *Phylloscopus inornatus*

Holy Island witnessed another notable influx on 7th, when 15 were located across the island, including five in the Straight Lonnen and four at the Snook (MJC/ADM/SR); birds were noted here on a further 12 dates with two to four daily from 10th-19th, one on 24th and two on 30th. Elsewhere, five + were between Bamburgh GC and Budle Point on 8th and three were there on 9th (GPK), three were at Low Newton on 8th (PRM/MJC) and between 7th-17th singles were noted at Bamburgh, Beadnell, Berwick, Craster, Cresswell Pond, Longhoughton Steel, St Mary's Island, Tynemouth and the Wansbeck Estuary. Later in the month singles were at Bamburgh and Tynemouth on 30th and St Mary's Island on 31st.



Two photographs of one of our autumn migrant Yellow-browed Warblers

Top: by Jonathan Farooqi at Cresswell on 11th October and below: in flight by Mike Carr in the Vicar's Garden at Holy Island on 17th October



**Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita*

The largest counts were between Bamburgh GC-Budle Point with ten+ on 7th and 15+ on 8th (GPK); there were six+ at Bamburgh on 9th and a total of eight were trapped and ringed during the month (BRS). Seven were at Low Newton on 8th (MJC) and six at Tynemouth on 9th (CB). Three were on Holy Island on 7th and three to four on the island from 14th-18th (MJC/ADM *et al.*). Elsewhere, three+ were at St Mary's Island on 10th (MSH). At Gosforth Park NR, there were four on 1st and the final record was a single on 10th (NHSN). One to two were reported from a further 27 localities.

A bird showing characteristics of the **Siberian race** *P.c.tristis* was on Holy Island from 30th-31st (Stef McElwee).



The possible Siberian race Chiffchaff on Holy Island  
by Jonathan Farooqi on 30th October

**Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Singles were at Low Newton on 8th (PRM) and Holy Island on 17th (MJC).

**Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*

A total of nine were trapped and ringed at Bamburgh during the month (BRS). Seven arrived during heavy rain at Budle Point on 4th (CGK/GPK) and five + were between here and Bamburgh GC on 9th. Peak counts from Holy Island were five on 30th (MJC), three on 7th and three from 17th-18th. Four were at Low Newton on 11th (GPK) and at St Mary's Island on 30th (CDB/MP) and three in a Tynemouth garden on 5th (CB). One to two were also reported from Beadnell, Beal Point, Cambois, Craster, East Ord, East Sleekburn, Lower Ouseburn, Marden Quarry, Newbiggin, Prestwick Carr, Snab Point and the Wansbeck Estuary during the month.



A male Blackcap on the shore at St. Mary's Island  
by Chris Barlow

**Garden Warbler** *Sylvia borin*

One was at Budle Point on 7th (GPK) while two were at Cresswell Pond on 9th (JD). Further singles were at Low Newton on 11th (GPK), Holy Island on 17th (MJC) and Gosforth Park NR on 28th (NHSN).

**Barred Warbler** *Sylvia nisoria*

The only record was a single at Hauxley NR on 27th (CDB).

Correction: The bird seen at Budle Point on 20th September should have been credited to CGK and not as stated.

**Lesser Whitethroat** *Sylvia curruca*

Two were at Low Newton on 8th (MJC) and a single at Bamburgh GC on 12th (GPK).

**Whitethroat** *Sylvia communis*

The only record was a single at Bamburgh GC on 12th (GPK).

**Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

The final report from Gosforth Park NR was a single on 17th (NHSN).

**Nuthatch** *Sitta europaea*

Four were at Wallington Hall on 27th (PRM). Two were noted at Ford Moss, Haughton Strother GP, Holywell Dene and Scotch Gill Woods and singles at Felton Lane, Spindlestone and Wark (North Tyne).

**Treecreeper** *Certhia familiaris*

Four at Haughton Strother GP on 14th was the highest count (MR). Three were at Spindlestone on 3rd (CGK/GPK), two at Wallington Hall and Wark (North Tyne) and singles at Grindon Lough, Holywell Dene, Prestwick Carr and Woodhorn Church.

**Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes*

On Holy Island, 17-18 were noted from 5th-7th (ADM/MJC). The species was prominent across the island from 10th-19th (IK) when there was a peak count of 45 on 15th (MJC/ADM); a further influx occurred at the end of the month with 62 on 30th and 34 on 31st (MJC). One to four were noted at a further four localities.

**Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*

The regular autumn roost at Holy Island Lough was well down on previous years with 5,500-6,000 noted during the month (IK). Elsewhere, numbers at Grindon Lough increased from 80 on 5th to 600 by 29th (SJH); 600 were also at Palmersville on 27th (JPD *et al.*). Counts of 100-150 came from Exhibition Park, Longhorsley and Whitley Bay, while 60 moved S at Newbiggin on 12th and 60 were at Beal on 30th; 50 were reported from Broomhill, Ross and St Mary's Island.



An iridescent Starling rests after arriving off the seat  
by Alan Jack

**Dipper** *Cinclus cinclus*

Four were noted at Barrowburn on 31st (JMA). Two (one singing) were at Ponteland Park on 16th and there were regular sightings of two on the Ouseburn (Ouseburn Park-Dene Bridge). Singles were also reported from Alnwick, Scotch Gill Woods (Morpeth), Thrum Mill and Wark (North Tyne).



Dipper breeding data (JR):

Study area	Pairs	Eggs	Young fledged	Notes
Upper Coquetdale	12 (from 16 sites)	93	73	Includes 8 pairs with second clutches (33 eggs / 23 young)
Rede / North Tyne	3	29	19	All with second clutches (14 eggs / 10 young)

#### Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

One to three were noted at Holy Island on seven dates from 10th-19th with a peak on 18th (IK/ASJ/MJC/ADM) and four were on the island on 30th (TF/JFa). Elsewhere, one was heard moving W over Willington Quay on 15th, another was at Tynemouth on 16th and singles were at Bamburgh, Lynemouth and Tynemouth on 30th.

#### thrush *sp.*

A large influx of thrushes occurred on 30th with reports of 'many thousands' coming in-off throughout the day at St Mary's Island (JPD *et al.*). Up to 500 per hour arrived at Tynemouth between dawn and 10.00hrs with Redwing and Fieldfare the most prominent species (CGK/GPK). At Chapel House mixed flocks totalling around 250 moved over the estate all day (MH).

#### Blackbird *Turdus merula*

The influx on 30th, as referred to above, produced a count of 722 at Holy Island (MJC). Earlier in the month 160-277 were counted on the island from 15th-18th with a peak on the latter date (MJC/ADM). Smaller flocks were noted elsewhere with 40-50 arriving at Newbiggin on 30th and 15-21 reported from Bamburgh, Berwick, Cambois, Cresswell and Woodhorn.

#### Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

The influx on 30th produced 1,300-1,500 at Holy Island (MJC/TF/JFa), 900 came in off the sea at Cullercoats (ASJ), 270+ arrived at St Mary's Island, 250+ flew inland at Tynemouth (MSH/DRW), 126 flew W at East Ord (Berwick) and 50 were at Cresswell Pond; birds were moving quickly inland with 140 flying SW at Blanchland on the same day (IK). Very few were noted prior to this event with two to 22 reported from nine localities from 15th-26th.

#### Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

Two distinct influxes occurred. On 7th, 66 were on Holy Island (MJC/ADM) and 30 moved W at Rothbury (MJC), whilst 31 were at Low Newton on the following day (MJC). Holy Island witnessed a second wave of migrants on 30th, when 69 were counted across the island (MJC); 15 fresh arrivals were at Newbiggin on the same day (GB). Other notable counts were 21 at Holy Island on 18th and nine + at Bamburgh on 9th. Four were at Linton Ponds on 20th, three at the Wansbeck Estuary on 11th and one or more were heard passing over Wark (North Tyne) after dark on 8th.

#### Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

This was the most prominent species during the influx of 30th, with 3,000+ arriving at Holy Island (TF/JFa), 2,000 coming in-off at Cullercoats (ASJ), 1,000 moving inland at Tynemouth (DRW) and 300-400 at Newbiggin (GB); evidence of birds moving quickly inland during the day came from Hexham, where large numbers were heard moving over at 18.00hrs and likewise at Wark (North Tyne) where birds were heard from 19.00hrs onwards (PRM). Earlier in the month, there was a large influx at Holy Island on 16th (IK) and 1,341 were counted across the island on 18th (MJC/ADM) with many others passing straight over to SW (IK). Inland during this period 100-120 were noted at Derwent Reservoir, Gosforth Garden Village, near Humshaugh and at Wark (North Tyne). Up to 50 were reported from a further 18 localities.



Part of the thrush influx late in the month  
A Redwing at Sty. Mary's by Chris Barlow



**Mistle Thrush** *Turdus viscivorus*

Five flew W in off the sea at East Ord (Berwick) on 30th (MHu). Three to four were reported from Bamburgh and Kirkharle and two were at Budle Bay, Fontburn Reservoir, Grindon Lough, Low Newton, Unthank and Wallington Hall. Singles were at Holy Island (where the species is scarce) on 7th and 14th and at Harbottle Crags and Wark (North Tyne).



A Robin  
Wallington Hall  
Janet Dean  
30th October

**Robin** *Erithacus rubecula*

Early in the month, ten were at Whitley Bay Cemetery on 4th, 24 were on Holy Island, 21 at Prestwick Carr and eight + at Bamburgh on 5th, 36 were on Holy Island on 7th and 16 at Low Newton on 8th. A mid-month influx at Holy Island between 10th-19th produced a peak count of 90 (excluding the western dunes-IK). From 29th-31st, 25 were on Holy Island, 15 near Humshaugh and ten + at St Mary's Island.

**Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Nest box breeding data (JR):

Study area	Pairs	Eggs	Young fledged
Low Carritheth	6	43	25

A female which has bred at this site since 2011 was ringed as a nestling near Greenhaugh in 2010.

**Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Three were at St Mary's Island and one on Holy Island and on 30th (JPD/CDB/TF/JFa *et al.*)

**Redstart** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Nest box breeding data (JR):

Site	Pairs	Eggs	Young fledged	Notes
Tarset	1	7	0	Eggs predated
Low Carritheth	3	19	18	



A Black Redstart at St. Mary's by Chris Barlow

**Stonechat** *Saxicola rubicola*

Peak counts were as follows;

Site	Peak count	Observer	Site	Peak count	Observer
<b>Coastal:</b>			St Mary's Island	2	MSH
Holy Island	7	ADM	Warkworth Gut	2	STH
Cresswell Pond / dunes	6 (3 pairs)	JSB/EC	Woodhorn	2 ( a pair)	GB
East Chevington	4 (2 pairs)	LJM/PJA/JSB/EC	Boulmer	1 (F)	NFO
Newbiggin	4 (2 pairs)	GB	Monks' House Pool	1	BRS
Low Newton	3 (2M/1F)	MJC/CW	Wansbeck Estuary	1	GB
Old Hartley	3	MNC			
Bamburgh	2	BRS	<b>Inland:</b>		
Druridge Pools	2 (a pair)	JSB/EC	Hepburn Moor	3	IRD
Dunstanburgh	2 ( a pair)	TM	Prestwick Carr	3	PCF
Embleton	2 ( a pair)	TM	West Hartford	2	STH
Hauxley	2 ( a pair)	IFo	Gosforth Park NR	1	NHSN
Lynemouth	2 (M)	GB			

**Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Singles were at Boulmer on 2nd, Dunstanburgh and Tynemouth on 5th, Budle Point on 6th, Holy Island on 7th, Monks' House Pool on 10th and inland at Hepburn Moor on 11th. Two were at the Long Nanny on 14th and a single there on 17th and one was at North Blyth on 19th. A late and final bird was found at Newbiggin on 30th (GB/AIB).

Large individuals, showing characteristics of the **Greenland race** *O.o.leucorhoa* were noted at Snab Point on 5th (IK) and Holy Island on 15th (KWY).

**Dunnock** *Prunella modularis*

32 were trapped and ringed during the month at Bamburgh (BRS). Elsewhere, one to two were seen at Jesmond Dene, Holywell Dene, Walbottle and Hauxley.



A leucistic Dunnock in a North Shields garden  
by Dennis Lovatt on 9th October

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*

The monthly highest count was of 200+ at Holy Island Village on 11th (ASJ). 100 were noted at Cullercoats Harbour and 40 at feeders in a Marden Estate garden throughout the month (ASJ). 50 were at Alwinton on 2nd and 25 in Holy Island Village on 30th. 12 were in an Alnwick garden on 22nd (JMA). 13 was the highest number this month in a Walbottle garden (KR/LR). Interestingly, two flew S at Spital, Newbiggin on 12th with migrating Tree Sparrows (GB).

**Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus*

Passage flocks were noted throughout the month, the largest numbers at Tynemouth on 11th, with a total of 215 moving S in two hours, and 92, again in small groups (maximum flocks of 21 and 26 birds) at Spital (Newbiggin) the following morning (CB/GB). 35 and 31 flew S at Tynemouth on 11th and 29th (DRW). A total of 22 also heading S at Wansbeck Estuary on 11th and 15 at Newbiggin on 18th (GB). One to seven passage birds at four further sites during the month. Also at the coast, 40 were trapped and ringed at Bamburgh during the month. Apart from passage birds, the species was well reported, with 42 at Prestwick Carr on 8th (PCF), 30+ at Bamburgh on 9th, 15+ there on 5th and 12+ on 9th (BRS), 23 at Hauxley on 27th (CDB). About 20 at Low Newton on 8th (PRM). 12 were noted at Haughton Strother on 8th (MR). One to three were at eight further county sites, including one in a Gosforth garden.

**Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*

An excellent roost flock of around 50 birds was notable with Pied Wagtails at Tapee Fen (Berwick) on the evening of 2nd (BWG). 12 were at Whitley Bay Cemetery on 6th (MNC). Birds observed flying S in the month involved four at Tynemouth on 11th (CB), three at Low Newton on 8th (MJC) and two at Monkseaton, Boulmer and Seaton Sluice. Two were also noted at Howdon and at Bamburgh. Widespread reports of single birds came from a further 35 sites during the month, including town and city centre areas.

**Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla alba*

A large roost noted this month involving 48 birds on rooftops at Eldon Square (Newcastle) on 26th and 37 were at Haughton Strother, Humshaugh on 3rd ((Dmc/MR). 20 were at East Chevington burn mouth on 11th (GB) and at Bothal on 4th, with 17 here on 1st (IRD). One to seven were at a further seven sites during the month.

**Olive-backed Pipit** *Anthus hodgsoni*

An individual of this rare species was heard calling in flight at Chare Ends (Holy Island) and appeared to land in the North Dunes on 17th, but unfortunately could not be relocated. (MJC).



**Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis*

One was seen to fly S, calling, at Cresswell Pond on 1st (MHS).

**Meadow Pipit** *Anthus pratensis*

Ongoing passage noted this month, with 57 moving SW at East Cramlington on 8th, 50 S in 30 minutes at Tynemouth on 10th (STH/CB) and ten S at Spital (Newbiggin) on 12th (GB). Light passage was noted at St. Mary's on 10th (MHS). A feeding group of 24 were at Chare Ends (Holy Island) on 18th and 25+ noted at Lynemouth on same date (ASJ/JL). One to ten were seen at four other sites throughout the month, including birds still inland at Harbottle on 2nd and Grindon up to 15th and three in Newcastle Exhibition Park on 3rd.

**Rock Pipit** *Anthus petrosus*

A total of ten were observed at Holy Island on 14th (ADM) with three at St. Mary's on 4th increasing to five on 8th and seven on 27th (PRM/CDB/MSH). Three were at Marden Rocks (Alnmouth) on 23rd (AB/LB). One was seen at Blyth Harbour on 17th and unusually one was inland on the North Tyne at Wark on 22nd (PRM).

**Brambling** *Fringilla montifringilla*

Migrants were on Holy Island from 7th, with a total of 20 there in village and at Crooked Lonnen (MJC/ADM). 11 present on 30th and ten on 17th, six birds on 14th and five on 18th.(TF/JFa/KWY/ASJ). Elsewhere, birds seen at Tynemouth with up to five there on 30th. Two were at Bamburgh on 9th, Tynemouth on 11th and Newbiggin and St. Mary's on 30th and inland at Kielder Castle on 19th. Singles were noted at nine further sites in the month from Holy Island in the north to Swallow Pond on Tyneside.



A Brambling on Holy Island

by Mike Carr on 27th October

**Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs*

Few reported this month, with the largest group being of only 14 at Flagstaff Park (Berwick) on 11th (Mhu). Ten+ were at Bamburgh on 24th(BRS). Two to five frequented a garden at Old Hartley throughout the month (RJP). Light passage to the north west was noted at Bamburgh on 23rd and one to four were at Jesmond Dene, Hauxley and a Walbottle garden in the month.

**Hawfinch** *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

An individual of this scarce species flew N over Grindon Lough on 11th (PRM).

**Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Several small groups occurred during the month with eight at Derwent Reservoir on 12th, seven at Cambois on 17th and six were seen at Prestwick Carr on 25th (IFo/STH/PCF). During the month two to four noted in an Old Hartley garden and one to four seen in Holywell Dene (RJP). Four also at Grindon on 5th (SJH). One to three noted at twelve other sites in the month, including a juvenile at Hauxley on 27th. Two British race males were trapped and ringed at Bamburgh on 29th and a single accompanied migrating pipits as they flew S at Tynemouth on 10th(CB).

**Greenfinch** *Chloris chloris*

At King Edward's Bay (Tynemouth) a large group of 90+ was watched feeding on Rose Hips on 22nd (SPP).

On the 5th groups of 30 and 30+ were at Linden Hall and Bamburgh respectively (NFO/BRS). 12 in Newcastle Exhibition Park on 8th (GB) and six on 12th was the month's high count in an observer's garden in Walbottle (KR/LR). One to three at Holywell Dene, an Old Hartley garden and Cambois during the month.

**Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*

The largest flock this month contained 70+ birds at Bamburgh on 5th. This had reduced to 10+ by 9th (BRS). At Tynemouth, 35 flew S in two hours on 11th (CB). The following morning, at Spital (Newbiggin), 23 were also noted heading S (GB). One to 16 were at 12 further sites throughout the month, including eight birds in Newcastle City Centre at Bigg Market (DMcK).

**Linnet** *Carduelis cannabina*

A large flock on wires near the railway crossing at Beal Farm on 11th was thought to contain around 500 birds. The flock was still present the following week on 18th, dropping down to feed in stubble and, from video taken, similar numbers were confirmed (ASJ). 300 were in stubble fields at St. Mary's on 19th with 120 there on 23rd (ASJ/MPF/JPD/AWS). Some of these on 19th were no doubt part of a count of 180 made that same day at nearby Old Hartley (MNC). Another large gathering was of 150 at Boulmer on 4th, with 62 here on 23rd (NFO/AB/LB). Around 65 were observed at Beal Point (Lindisfarne) on 31st (MJC). Flocks of between 30 and 50 were at Derwent Reservoir, Longhorsley, Humshaugh and Berwick Golf Course during the month, and six to 20 noted at five other sites, included 21 moving S on the morning of the 19th at Newbiggin (GB).

**Twite** *Carduelis flavirostris*

30 on 29th and about 85 on 31st were with Linnets at Beal Point (MJC). 60 counted near the causeway of Holy Island on 31st and 40+ on the Island may have involved some of the same flock(CDB/TF/JFa). Two birds on 18th at Chare Ends and 19 on 20th, also on Holy Island. Elsewhere, the only report was of eight at Berwick Little Beach on 23rd(MHu).

**Lesser Redpoll** *Carduelis caberet*

Approximately 50 were seen at Grindon on 11th, with 60 seen there on 29th (PRM/SJH). About 20 also noted at Wark on 20th (PRM). Ten+ were seen at Harwood Forest on 14th (MJC). At the coast two on 11th, two+ on 15th and 15+ on 24th were at Bamburgh (BRS) and four flew S at Low Newton on 8th (MJC). Two were noted at Prestwick Carr on 31st, and a single on two dates, 11th and 12<sup>th</sup>, at Southfield Green (Cramlington) (DMcK).

**Redpoll Sp.**

Three singles, not attributed to race, were noted at Wansbeck Estuary on 11th, Lynemouth on 18th and Newcastle Exhibition Park on 22nd. (GB).

**Mealy Redpoll** *Carduelis flammea*

A single of this Northern species was with Lesser Redpolls in woods at Grindon on 11th (PRM).

**Common Crossbill** *Loxia curvirostris*

15 were at Harwood Forest on the 14th (MJC). On 22nd, ten were at Bakethin and two at Catcleugh. Two also at Blakehopeburnhaugh on 19th.(MD).

**Siskin** *Carduelis spinus*

A large gathering of 120 occurred at Haughton Strother G.P. on 20th (MR). 40+ were at Bamburgh on 5th (BRS). On 11th and 12th, a daily total of 20 birds was seen to fly S at Wansbeck Estuary and at Spital (Newbiggin)(GB). At Tynemouth, S movement was noted on 5th with two birds, five birds on 10th and 13 on 11th (CB). Light passage to the north west also occurred at Bamburgh on 29th (BRS). One to five were at nine sites during the month including one at Newcastle Exhibition Park.

**Snow Bunting** *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Seven were on the beach near Hemscott Hill Links on 29th (LJM/PJA), two at Stag Rocks on 26th and one at The Snook on 14th (ADM). Another was seen at the North Dunes (Holy Island) on 30th (MJC). Singles also noted at Boulmer on 19th and at St. Mary's on 2th.



**Lapland Bunting** *Calcarius lapponicus*

Only two records this month. One was at Monks' House Pool on 9th and one in stubble at Chare Ends (Holy Island) on 15th (BRS/IK).



A coastal Lapland Bunting by Gary Eden

**Yellowhammer** *Emberiza citronella*

Disappointingly, only six reports of this species received this month. A group of 12 was in a hedgerow at Elwick on 11th (ASJ), and five records of single birds seen at Big Waters, Newbiggin, Grindon, Cresswell and Beacon Lane (Cramlington).

**Reed Bunting** *Emberiza schoeniclus*

22 were feeding with Linnets in stubble and perching in bushes between Chare Ends and Straight Lonnen (Holy Island) on 11th (ASJ). Eight to eight + at St Mary's Wetland on 8th and 10th (ASJ/MHS). Eight were also at Cocklawburn Pond on 29th (MHu). Seven at Prestwick Carr on 5th and Haughton Strother on 8th (PCF/MR) and three were at Snab Point (Cresswell) on 11th (GB). Two were at Grindon, Newbiggin and Prestwick Carr and singles at Tynemouth on two dates and at Grindon again during the month.

**ESCAPES, HYBRIDS AND BIRDS OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN****Escapes****Lesser White-fronted Goose** *Anser erythropus*

Presumably the returning individual from last year was responsible for sightings at East Chevington on 3rd (IFo) & Hauxley on 5th (CDB).

**Bar-headed Goose** *Anser indicus*

A group of five continued their stay in the county with sightings at Derwent Reservoir on 4th (IFo) and nearby at Airy Holm reservoir on 11th (IFo). Further sightings of two at Hauxley on 5th (Dlo) and 18th (PCF) may have originated from this group. Two were also noted at Woodhorn on 29th (CDB).

**Hybrids****Tufted Duck x Pochard** *Aythya fuligula* x *Aythya ferrina*

A hybrid drake at Tynemouth boating lake on 21st (DRW) was presumed to have been of this parentage.



## Birds of Unknown Origin

### Parakeet sp *Psittacula* sp

Two were seen over observer's house in Kenton on 24th (MRS).

## LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

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Bamburgh Ringing Station, Berwick Wildlife Group, Hauxley Ringing Station, Natural History Society of Northumbria, Seaton Sluice Watch Tower.

## Apologies for any accidental omissions

## BULLETIN COMPILATION AND PRODUCTION

This bulletin was compiled by Graeme Bowman (Mute Swan to Ruddy Duck), Lindsay McDougall (Red Grouse to Black-necked Grebe), Trevor Blake (Honey-buzzard to Crane), Steve Holliday (Avocet to Godwit) Ian Forsyth (Turnstone to Skua), Eddie Crabtree (Puffin to Great Black-backed Gull), Tim Dean (Escapes, Hybrids and Unknown Origin, List of Contributors, Highlights), Peter Fletcher (Feral Pigeon to Red-rumped Swallow), Mike Richardson (Cetti's Warbler to Pied Flycatcher), Alan Jack (Dunnock to Corn Bunting), Dan Turner (WeBS Coastal Counts) and Steve Holliday (WeBS Inland Counts).

Thanks to David Sanders of NNBC for providing data.

Proof reading was by Mike Smith.

Edited by Steve Barrett [NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com](mailto:NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com)

Mail distribution by Paul Stewart.

## RECORD SUBMISSION

Please email [ntbcorg@gmail.com](mailto:ntbcorg@gmail.com) for a copy of the standard spreadsheet and other details.

Location names and grid references: The use of standard location names and the include grid references as this greatly increases the value of records in subsequent analyses. A 1km square grid reference is the ideal e.g. NY8067 for Grindon Lough, but 2km square references (tetrads) are also acceptable e.g. NY86D in this case. A list of localities and their tetrad grid references (tetrad/Locality List) can be downloaded from the 'Resources & Downloads' section of the Club website at <http://www.ntbc.org.uk> – the use of these names, wherever possible, would be highly appreciated.

Could club members ensure they to submit records direct to NTBC rather than just Birdtrack. There may be an assumption by some members this happens automatically. We do not want to miss records.

## PHOTOGRAPHS AND ILLUSTRATIONS

Please keep submitting your articles, photographs, sketches and illustrations for the bulletin. Thanks again to those who have supplied the excellent photographs. Please send to Steve Barrett at [NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com](mailto:NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com)

It is preferable if you re-size your photos before sending and a suggested size is 640 x 480 pixels. Please ensure you include the following information with your submissions: name, species, date taken, locality.

Photographs will not be used elsewhere without the photographer's permission.

## MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Membership costs £30 per year. For membership enquiries please contact [ntbc@jobentley.plus.com](mailto:ntbc@jobentley.plus.com)

Subscriptions were due from 1st October. Members are asked to check that standing orders have been paid.

No publications will be issued to non payers after January 1st 2015.

## NTBC WEB SITE

The Club website is an excellent resource for all interested in birds in the north-east. There are numerous interesting sections, including a photograph gallery, site information and trip reports together with extensive reference information for birding in our area. Please submit any new content for the website to the main club email address.

## NTBC SIGHTINGS PAGE

The Sightings Page contains current reports by members. Access is from the NTBC website and an email notification is available for new postings.

Members need to submit a request to be added to the website, specifying the email address they wish to post from before they can submit sightings to [ntbcorg@gmail.com](mailto:ntbcorg@gmail.com)

**SEATON SLUICE WATCH TOWER**

Repairs have recently been made to the SSWT and a new lock has been fitted. This means that new keys are required for access. Keys will be distributed at indoor meetings from 13th November or please email [ntbcorg@gmail.com](mailto:ntbcorg@gmail.com)

Keys are available for £5 for new holders and existing key-holders can exchange keys for £4.

**ERIC****GRANTS AVAILABLE**

Please find attached information about our small grant scheme for voluntary recorders and recording groups; the total pot will be £2,000 again next year.

The deadline for applications is Friday 9th January 2015 and grants will need to be spent between 1st April 2015 – 31st March 2016. I am circulating the information a little earlier this year as I know that people need to be able to plan things well in advance.

It's probably worthwhile me mentioning that we did receive quite a lot of applications last year so in some cases we were unable to award the full amount requested for each application but instead part-funded some of them. Feel free to forward this to anyone who you think might be interested and do give me a call if you have any queries or would like to have a chat about your project ideas.

Best wishes

**Katherine Pinnock**

**ERIC North East Coordinator**

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## INLAND WeBS COUNTS: NORTH HUMBERLAND

Version

Interim

**Year: 2014**  
**Month: October**

[illegible]



# Northumberland and Tyneside Bird Club

Registered Charity No. 517641

<http://www.ntbc.org.uk/>

**Bulletin 2014 No 11**

**MONTHLY SUMMARY – NOVEMBER**

**7th January 2015**



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BIN 2013 issue February 2015

International Swan census

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Little Auk

Black Guillemot

Glaucous Gull

Bonaparte's Gull

Bearded Tit

Pallas's Warbler

Hume's Warbler

Barred Warbler

Great Reed Warbler

Siberian Stonechat

Two at Grindon Lough and one in off sea at Seaton Sluice.

Single at Grindon Lough.

One at Hauxley from 1st to 8th.

The juvenile at Castle Island from last month stayed through to 25th.

Single redheads past Tynemouth and at East Chevington.

Two all month at Gosforth Park and single at East Chevington.

Again this month several records with two at Harthope Valley.

Late individual over Tynemouth on 16th.

One past Newbiggin on 17th.

Large influx during month.

Single past Newbiggin on 5th.

Singles at Boulmer, North Shields and Newbiggin.

One stayed briefly at Swallow Pond on 29th.

Two at East Chevington on 9th.

One near Whitley Bay GC on 15th.

Excellent find at Brier Dene from 22nd to 24th.

Late migrant on 2nd at Holy Island.

One at Old Hartley on 14th. Only one other individual in UK later than this record.

Another excellent find at Spittal, Newbiggin on 8th.

## FIELD TRIP

### CHANGE OF VENUE: NEW MEMBERS' TRIP SUNDAY 18 TH JAN 2015.

Ross Back Sands, Budle Bay and Stag Rocks. Please meet Mike Carr and Andy Mould at Ross village NU133360 at 0900h

## INDOOR MEETINGS

NTBC indoor meetings are held at Northern Rugby Club, McCracken Park, Great North Road, Newcastle, NE3 2DT starting at 7.00pm and generally finish between 9.00pm-9.30pm.

The next meetings of the 2014-2015 season are;

8th January 2015

### A 1000 miles for Martha and Bird Conservation in Turkey

Tristan Reid AKA 'The Inked Naturalist'

Tristan has become a legend in the bird conservation world for his knowledge of middle eastern birds and his exploits and efforts to raise profile of species under threat and to raise funds to help with finding a solution to their conservation.

12th February 2015

### RSPB Saltholme – the inside gen.

Dave Braithwaite, RSPB Senior Reserve Manager

Having been at RSPB Saltholme since the inception and then to go on to establish the reserve as one of the premier reserves in the RSPB family, Dave has a wealth of knowledge and experience in conserving birds and habitats and enabling people to enjoy them. Tonight Dave will share some of the milestones of his work.



A Jay at Eddie Crabtree's bird table in Stamfordham

## CLASSIFIED LIST

The following account consists of unchecked reports. The species/subspecies marked \* require descriptions.

A complete list of all sightings that need notes is included in the NTBC website [www.ntbc.org.uk](http://www.ntbc.org.uk) under the County Records Committee section and in Birds in Northumbria 2012 page 236.

The Inland and Coastal Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) tables are at the rear of the bulletin. These contain counts additional to those in the Classified List.

### Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

QEII CP Lake held 105 on 9th (CDH), 87 were at Capheaton Lake on 4th (STE), 50 were at Big Waters on 2nd (GB), and 25 at Druridge Bay CP (JMA). Counts of 12-18 came from Gosforth Park NR, Holy Island causeway and the Wansbeck Estuary, while six to nine were at Amble and Newcastle Leazes Park, and one to four at ten further sites. One found on the slip road at East Sleekburn on 22nd was released on the nearby river (JR).

### Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

Southbound birds involved 29 at Tynemouth on 2nd (DRW), 29 at Fenham Flats on 28th (JL), a total of 27 at Seaton Sluice on 1st-2nd (SSWT), 24 at Ellington on 1st (TB), and four at Marden Quarry on 9th (KWY), while 16-29 at Lindisfarne NNR (CDB/ADM) on three dates may have been local feeding movements. Six flew SE at Prestwick Carr on 23rd (PCF), four W at Ellington on 2nd (TB) and four SW at Newbiggin on 9th (TRC). Peak counts were 58 at Holy Island on 2nd (ADM), 32 at Cresswell Pond on 25th (EC/JSB), 19 at Hauxley Reserve on 5th (HRS), and ten to 12 at Caistron (JD) and Maiden's Hall Lake (ASJ). Six to eight were also at Bingfield, Haughton Strother GP, Holywell Pond and Whittle Dene Reservoirs, and one to four at Bakethin Reservoir, Capheaton Lake and East Chevington.

### Bean Goose *Anser fabalis*

Two, of the *rossicus* ('tundra') race were at Grindon Lough on 18th (PRM) and 23rd (AJR), and one of this race was seen to fly in off the sea at Seaton Sluice on 22nd (SSWT).

### Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

A mighty count of approximately 14,500 was made at Holy Island on 2nd as birds left the causeway sands in 15 main flocks in early morning (ADM). Most flew S to Budle Bay, then inland, while 1,500 settled at Beal. Several skeins, totalling 3,000 birds, flew S at Bamburgh just after dawn on 9th (BRS), 2,500 were at Cresswell Pond on 9th (ASJ), 800 were at Doddington on 22nd (JD), 800 at Holywell Pond on 11th (JPD), 650 at East Chevington (AJR), and 400-500 at Ellington (TB) and Ross (DM/STH), 122 at Cresswell Pond, and 11 at Whittle Dene Reservoirs. Southbound flocks included five skeins totalling 760 at Tynemouth during the month (ASJ), 406 at Brierdene (+31 W) on 23rd (IF), 350 at Hauxley Reserve on 15th (HRS), 350 at Fenham Flats on 28th (JL), 300 at Ellington on 23rd (TB), 300 at Marden Quarry on 9th (KWY), and 100-220 at East Chevington, Holy Island, Howdon, Newbiggin, North Shields, Whitley Bay between 15th-30th, and 45-88 at Hauxley, North Shields, St Mary's and Tynemouth and the Wansbeck Estuary between 1st-20th.

### White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

Four (two adults, two first-winters) Eurasian *albifrons* race birds were at Big Waters on 24th (AJJ *per* GB) and then at nearby Gosforth Park NR on 27th (NHSN). Singles of this race were at Bothal Pond (IRD) and East Chevington (TB) on 9th. A single adult of the Greenland *flavirostris* race was at Grindon Lough on three dates between 3rd-18th (PRM).

### Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

200 flew E at Prestwick Carr on 1st (PCF), and 22 moved S at Ellington on 2nd (TB). Peak counts were modest, with 272 at Big Waters (AJJ *per* GB), 160 at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 30th (PRM), 150 at Roddam Bog on 9th (JR), 131 at Woodhorn Flashes on 9th (CDH), 131 at Haughton Strother GP on 23rd (MR), and 40-70 at Gosforth Park NR (NHSN) and Roddam Quarry Pond (JMA). Two to eight were also at/over Bothal Pond, Capheaton, Cramlington, Grindon Lough and Hedgeley.

### Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

25 flew S at Ellington on 2nd (TB). The largest counts were 265 at Grindon Lough on 23rd (AJR), 175 at Derwent Reservoir on 27th (IFo), 135 at Capheaton on 16th (STE), 120 at Hedgeley GP on 13th (JMA), 89 at Bothal Pond on 9th (TD), about 60 at Gosforth Park NR (NHSN), 26-36 at Big Waters and QEII CP Lake, and 17 at Newcastle Leazes Park.

### Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

300 were at Fenham Flats on 28th (JL), 110 moved N at Ross on 16th (DM/STH), 20 flew S with Pink-footed Geese on 9th (BRS), and 18 flew SW at Newbiggin on 9th (TRC). Singles were at Doddington, Holywell Pond, Stag Rocks (on the sea) and Woodhorn Flashes.

### Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*

Pale-bellied *hrota* race birds involved 12 at Fenham Flats on 4th (TRD/JD), five N and one S at Seaton Sluice on 5th-6th (SSWT) and one at Stag Rocks. Dark-bellied *bernicla* race birds included 110 regularly feeding on a *zostera* bed near St Cuthbert's Island, Holy Island (IK), two at the Wansbeck Estuary on 2nd (STH/PJA), and one chased by a Peregrine at Widdrington Moor Lake on 11th, having been noted earlier at East Chevington north pool (MH/AA).

Un-raced birds involved 1,000 at Holy Island on 5th (PHH), and six N at Tynemouth on 6th (SPP).

### Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiacus*

One was at Hauxley Reserve on 1st and 8th (HRS).

**Shelduck** *Tadorna tadorna*

A total of 18 flew N and seven S at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT), and a total of four moved N at St Mary's between 5th-9th (JPD/MPF/AWS). Budle Bay held 50 on 16th (DM/STH), and two to three were at Howdon between 19th-23rd (CB).

**Wigeon** *Anas penelope*

A total of 294 flew N and 54 S at Seaton Sluice during the month, including 258 N and 39 S on 5th-6th (SSWT), at least 115 flew N/NW at St Mary's between 1st-9th (JPD/MPF/MSH/AWS), and 32 moved N at Newbiggin on 8th (GB). Peak concentrations were 463 at Grindon Lough on 17th (SJH), 380 at Cresswell Pond on 10th (TRC), 276 at Big Waters on 9th (GB), 206 at Derwent Reservoir on 16th (IFo), and 101-160 at Bothal Pond (TD), the Coquet Estuary (JMA) and Whittle Dene Reservoirs (MR). Counts of 50-80 came from Colt Crag Reservoir, Holywell Pond, Lesbury and Widdrington Moor Lake, and ten to 30 were at Branton GP, Gosforth Park NR, Hauxley Reserve and St Mary's Wetland. Two at Airy Holm Reservoir on 21st were considered notable as the species is typically scarce there.

**Gadwall** *Anas strepera*

Largest gatherings involved 124 at Big Waters on 2nd (GB), 119 at East Chevington on 9th (JL), 44 at Caistrion on 8th (JD), 28 at Swallow Pond on 18th and 30th (JPD/SPP), and 11-14 at Laverock Hall Farm (LJM), St Mary's Wetland (ASJ) and Widdrington Moor Lake (MSH). Counts of five to seven came from Bothal Pond, Hauxley Reserve, Marden Quarry and QEII CP Lake. One to two were also at Branton GP, Druridge Bay CP, Gosforth Park NR, Grindon Lough, Howdon and Longhirst Flash.

**Teal** *Anas crecca*

The monthly total at Seaton Sluice was an above-average 344 N and 29 S, including 230 N on 5th-6th (SSWT); and a total of 171 flew N between 5th-9th (JPD/MPF/AWS). A count of 500 regularly at Holy Island included 350 at the 'rocket field pools' and about 150 at the Lough (IK). Other peak counts were about 430 at Grindon Lough on 22nd (PRM), 311 at Colt Crag Reservoir on 19th (MR), 270 at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 18th (MR), 211 at Howdon on 26th (CB), 202 at Arcot Pond (DM), 100-132 at Derwent Reservoir (IFo) and Swallow Pond (JPD/MPF/AWS), and 62-94 at Big Waters, Haughton Strother GP and Prestwick Carr. Counts of 25-42 also came from Bothal Pond, Elswick, Hauxley Reserve, Lesbury, Longhirst Flash and Widdrington Moor Lake.

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*

At Seaton Sluice, a below-average 21 flew N and eight S during the month (SSWT), six flew S at Newbiggin on 8th (GB), and two flew N and two S at St Mary's between 5th-8th (JPD *et al.*). Peak counts were 156 at Derwent Reservoir on 27th (IFo), 136 at Colt Crag Reservoir on 19th (MR), 117 at Haughton Strother GP on 17th (MR), 103-110 at Grindon Lough (PRM) and Widdrington Moor Lake (MSH), and 50-98 at Big Waters, Druridge Bay CP, Hauxley Reserve, Jesmond Dene, Monks' House Pool, Newcastle Leazes Park, Roddam Bog and Whittle Dene Reservoirs. Groups of 20-46 were at Airy Holm Reservoir, the Aln Estuary, Amble, Bothal and Linton Ponds, Branton GP, Budle Bay, Longhirst Flash, QEII CP Lake, and the Wansbeck Estuary, and ten to 14 were at Arcot Pond, Holywell Dene, Jesmond Dene, Newcastle Civic Centre and Wark.

**Pintail** *Anas acuta*

Five were at East Chevington on 1st-2nd (TRD/JD/NFO) and one to two on 5th and 12th (IRD/TF/JFa). Singles were Colt Crag Reservoir on 19th (MR), Fenham Flats on 22nd (TF/JFa) and Hauxley Reserve on 15th (HRS).

**Blue-winged Teal** *Anas discors*

The individual found in September 2014 remained on the River Wansbeck at the 'Cambois rowing club' area (near Castle Island), and was noted on 9th and 23rd (STH/PG/CGK *et al.*).

**Shoveler** *Anas clypeata*

East Chevington attracted 20 on 2nd (TRD/JD), 18 were at Big Waters on 2nd (GB), 13 at Linton Ponds on 9th (CDH), and six to eight at Gosforth Park NR (NHSN) and Swallow Pond (GPK). One to two were also at Bakethin Reservoir, Bothal and Cresswell Ponds, Hauxley Reserve and Killingworth Lake.

**Pochard** *Aythya ferina*

Two flew N and then S off St Mary's on 5th (JPD/MPF/AWS). Double figure counts involved 15 at Killingworth Lake on 18th (GPK) and 12 at Druridge Bay CP on 10th (JMA). Seven were at East Chevington on 30th (TRD), three at Linton Ponds on 9th (CDH), and one to two at Big Waters, Bolam Lake and Bothal Pond.

**Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula*

Highest counts were 102 at Killingworth Lake on 25th (LJM), 53 at Big Waters on 30th (GB), 50 at Druridge Bay CP on 6th (JMA), 37 at QEII CP Lake on 9th (CDH), and 15-20 at Bothal, Holywell and Linton Ponds, Haughton Strother GP and Newcastle Exhibition Park. Five to ten were also at Branton GP, Caistrion, Gosforth Park NR, Grindon Lough, Hauxley Reserve, Newcastle Exhibition Park and Roddam Bog, and two to four at Airy Holm Reservoir and Holy Island Lough.

**Scaup** *Aythya marila*

Seven flew N at Seaton Sluice on 5th (SSWT), and two flew S at St Mary's on 8th (JPD). One at Killingworth Lake on 2nd was thought to be the same individual noted at Gosforth Park NR in October 2014.



**Eider** *Somateria mollissima*

A below-average 84 flew N and 17 S at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT), and a total of 46 moved N at St Mary's between 5th-9th (JPD/MSH *et al.*). A group of 70 was in Druridge Bay on 10th (JMA), 54 were off Holy Island on 13th (ADM), 39 at Stag Rocks (CDB), five to 13 at Amble and Newbiggin, and one in Budle Bay.

**Long-tailed Duck** *Clangula hyemalis*

Six flew N at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT), and three N at St Mary's on 5th (JPD/MPF/AWS). At Holy Island, 30 were noted in the St Cuthbert's Island area on 23rd (IK), 30 were at Ross Back Sands on 28th (JL), and 18 (11 drakes; much display) off Goswick on 25th (MH/AA). Only one to two were noted at Stag Rocks. Inland, the long-staying drake was at Derwent Reservoir on 1st (IFo).

**Common Scoter** *Melanitta nigra*

A monthly total of 510 N and 203 S at Seaton Sluice included 169 N and 47 S on 5th (SSWT), and a total of 354 flew N at St Mary's between 5th-17th (JPD/MPF/MSH/AWS). Four to 15 also flew N at Newbiggin, Stag Rocks and Tynemouth on single dates. The only flocks noted offshore were 25 at Newbiggin on 8th (GB), and five to ten off Hauxley and Stag Rocks, while one was off Cresswell.

**Velvet Scoter** *Melanitta fusca*

A total of 14 flew N and five S at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT), a total of at least 15 flew N and three S at St Mary's on 5th and 28th (JPD/MPF/MSH/AWS), and five moved N and one S at Tynemouth on 5th (DRW). One was at Newbiggin on 20th (TRC).

**Goldeneye** *Bucephala clangula*

A well-below average 73 flew N and 17 S at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT), and 12 flew N at St Mary's on 5th (MSH). Peak counts were 47 at East Chevington north pool on 30th (IK), 21 at Big Waters on 30th (GB), 20 at Bolam Lake on 13th (JPD/MPF/AWS), and five to ten at Colt Crag, Derwent and Whittle Dene Reservoirs, Grindon Lough, Holy Island, Holywell Pond and QEII CP Lake. Four were at Gosforth Park NR, and one to two at Bakethin Reservoir, Bothal Pond, Caistron, Hauxley Reserve, Howdon, Roddam Bog and Tynemouth boating lake.

**Smew** *Mergellus albellus*

An unusual sea-watching record involved a 'redhead' that flew S at Tynemouth on 22nd (MGK/DRW). A 'redhead' was also noted at East Chevington north pool on 22nd-23rd (ADM *et al.*).

**Red-breasted Merganser** *Mergus serrator*

Eight flew N and three S at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT), and five moved N at St Mary's on 5th (JPD/MPF/AWS). Holy Island attracted a peak count of 17 in the St Cuthbert's Island area on 5th (MJC/ADM), eight were at East Chevington on 9th (JL), three to four at Cresswell Pond (TRD/JD/AJR) and Stag Rocks (TRD/JD), two at Budle Bay and St Mary's, and singles at Budle Bay, Druridge Pools, East Chevington, and more unusually, at Monks' House Pool.



A Red-breasted Merganser displays at Cresswell Pond by Mike Potts

**Goosander** *Mergus merganser*

An above-average nine flew N and 15 S at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT), and a total of five flew N and 15 S at St Mary's between 5th-22nd (CB/JPD/MPF/AWS), and one to two S at Newbiggin and Tynemouth. A flock of eight flew W at Capheaton on 23rd (STE). Killingworth Lake held a peak of 11 on 18th (GPK), five were at Usway Burn (Upper Coquetdale) on 5th (IRD), and three to four at Airy Holm Reservoir, Blakehopeburnhaugh, Harthope Valley and Rothbury. One to two were also at Akeld Steads, Hauxley Reserve, Ingram, Marden Quarry, Morpeth-Mitford, Swallow Pond, Thrum Mill and Wark.

**Red-legged Partridge** *Alectoris rufa*

On 30th 36 released birds were in the Harthope Valley (JD). Six were at Longwiton on 24th (TB), five at Whitfield on 22nd (CDB) and two in a Northgate (Morpeth) garden on 9th (TB).

**Red Grouse** *Lagopus lagopus*

In the Harthope Valley 325 were present on 29th and 200 were counted there on 18th (JPD/MPF/AWS), when several large flocks totalling 250 were in the Broadstruther (Cheviot) area including one group of 87 (MH/AA). On 9th 63 were counted from Wooler Common-Broadstruther (MJC). Other counts from the Harthope Valley were 50 on 30th, 30+ on 22nd and five on 23rd. At Plenmeller Common 16 were present on 22nd (CDB) and five were on Quarry House Moor on 9th (JR).



A Red Grouse surveys Plenmeller Common on 22nd November by Chris Barlow

**Black Grouse** *Tetrao tetrix*

On 5th seven were at the traditional site at Sinderhope (Allendale) (AA). Two males were feeding on hawthorn berries at Featherstone Common on 15th (MH).

**Grey Partridge** *Perdix perdix*

The peak counts were 23 in four coveys at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 2nd (TB), eight at Seaton Point (Boulmer) on 1st (NFO) and East Chevington on 11th (TRD/JD) and seven at Prestwick Carr on 1st (PCF) and Boulmer on 25th (AB/LB). One to six were noted at Big Waters, Buston Links, East Sleekburn, Seaton Sluice dunes, Spittal (Newbiggin) and Whittle Dene Reservoirs.

**Pheasant** *Phasianus colchicus*

The peak counts were 25 at Ross Farm on 16th (DM/STH) and up to 18 during the month at Hartley West Farm (Holywell Dene). At Prestwick Carr on 2nd eight were roosting in a hedgerow (PCF). Seven (six females) were in a Walbottle garden on 30th (KR/LR) and two visited an Old Hartley garden on 7th/8th.



A cock Pheasant at Ingram by Alan Jack



**Red-throated Diver** *Gavia stellata*

At Seaton Sluice 97 flew N and 111 S during the month with a peak day count on 5th of 41 N and 45 S (SSWT). At St Mary's Island on 5th 22 flew N and 48 flew S, 20 flew N and 12 flew S on 8th with six flying N and 33 flying S on 9th (JPD/MPF/AWS). A count earlier in the day on 5th saw four fly N and 13 S (MSH). At Newbiggin three flew N and five S on 8th (GB) and two four flew S and four flew N in two one hour periods at St Mary's Island on 17th (MSH/AC). Smaller passage counts of one to three birds were noted at Holy Island on 8th/11th, Newbiggin on 6th, St Mary's Island on 3rd and Stag Rocks on 7th. The peak count at Stag Rocks was 13 on 9th (BRS) with five to 12 noted on two further dates. On 1st 12 were at Embleton (AJH). Ten were at Holy Island on 7th (IK) and eight at Goswick on 25th (MH/AA). One to five were noted at Alnmouth Bay, Blyth Bay, Cresswell, East Chevington, Holy Island, Rockcliffe (Whitley Bay), and Tynemouth.



A Red-throated Diver  
Cresswell on 2nd November  
by Tim Dean

**Black-throated Northern Diver** *Gavia arctica*

At St Mary's Island two flew S and one N on 5th (JPD/MPF/AWS). On this date one also flew N at Tynemouth (GPK). Two flew S together at Tynemouth on 2nd (DRW). Two flew N at Emmanuel Head (Holy Island) on 7th (IK). One bird, still in summer plumage, flew N at St Mary's Island on 17th (MSH) at Tynemouth on 9th and at Seaton Sluice one flew N on 8th and one was on the sea on 4th (SSWT).

**Great Northern Diver** *Gavia immer*

At Seaton Sluice four flew N and four flew S from 1st-8th (SSWT). On 5th two flew N and three flew S at St Mary's Island (JPD/MPF/AWS) and two flew S at Tynemouth (DRW). Two flew by at Newbiggin on 6th (PHH). Singles flew N at Tynemouth on 2nd, St Mary's Island on 5th/17th, Holy Island on 7th and S at Tynemouth on 9th. Singles were noted offshore at Emmanuel Head (Holy Island) on 7th Stag Rocks on 15th, Goswick on 25th and Ross Back Sands on 28th.

**Fulmar** *Fulmarus glacialis*

At Seaton Sluice during the month six flew N and four flew S. Ten were on the sea in Collywell Bay on 27th (SSWT). Two flew N at St Mary's Island on 28th (MSH).

**Sooty Shearwater** *Puffinus griseus*

The only record was of one flying N at Seaton Sluice on 5th (SSWT).



**Gannet** *Morus bassanus*

At Seaton Sluice 246 flew N and 169 flew S during the month (SSWT). Elsewhere one flew S at Newbiggin on 8th. At Stag Rocks on 4th nine were present (eight juveniles) with one there on 2nd.



A young Gannet cruises past Stag Rocks by Chris Barlow

**Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

At Seaton Sluice 27 flying S in two hours on 4th was the only indication of passage (SSWT). Six flew S over Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 2nd (TB). Peak counts were 76 at Amble Harbour on 5th (IF), 75 roosting at Black Law (Ross Point) on 16th (DM/STH), 32 at Colt Crag Reservoir on 19th (MR), 14 at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 18th (MR), 12 at Derwent Reservoir on 21st (IFo) and 11 throughout the month at Gosforth Park NR (NHSN). Nine were at Ross Back Sands on 16th (DM/STH) and eight were at Big Waters on 2nd (GB). One to seven were noted at Amble Weir, Arcot Pond, Budle Bay, East Chevington, Elswick Wharf, Hadston Carrs, Hauxley, Holy Island, Holywell Dene, Prestwick Carr, QEII Lake and Wark.

**Shag** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

At Seaton Sluice four flew N and 11 S on 18th (SSWT). At least 818 were counted between Budle Point and Bamburgh beach on 9th (BRS). A single was at Rockcliffe (Whitley Bay) on 2nd.

**Bittern** *Botaurus stellaris*

Birds were seen regularly throughout the month at Gosforth Park NR with at least two and possibly three present (NHSN). One was seen in flight over East Chevington North Pool on 8th (AJH).

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*

The peak count was seven in the Wansbeck Estuary on 8th with five still present the following day (STH/PJA). In the Lindisfarne NNR area the peak count was six (five Fenham and one Warren Mill) on 4th (MH/AA). Up to four were noted at the reserve on nine further dates. Elsewhere four were in the Blyth Estuary on 29th (LJM), and two at East Chevington North Pool on 4th (MH/AA), Cresswell Pond on 9th (ADM), Aln Estuary on 20th and Old Water (Warkworth) on 22nd (JMA). Singles were noted at Cresswell Pond, East Sleekburn, Holywell Dene, Ladyburn Lake, St Mary's Island and Swallow Pond, which was a first record for this site.

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*

The peak counts were 27 at Howdon on 26th (CB), seven at Hauxley NR on 8th (HRS), six at Holy Island on 14th (ADM) and five at Whittle Dene Reservoir on 18th (MR). One to three were noted at the Aln Estuary, Arcot Pond, Boulmer, Brandon, Hadston, Holywell Dene, Low Hauxley, Newbiggin, Old Water (Warkworth), QEII Lake and Wark.

**Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

The peak counts were 13 at Hauxley NR on 15th (HRS) and eight at Haughton Strother GP on 4th (MR), Big Waters on 9th (GB) and Cresswell Pond on 9th /29th (IRD/PCF). Seven were at East Chevington on 23rd (JPD/AWS) and six at Capheaton on 4th (STE). Four were at Airy Holm Reservoir on 21st (IFo). One to three were noted at the Aln Estuary, Beltingham, Blyth Estuary, Bothal Pond, Branton GP, Colt Crag Reservoir, Grindon Lough, Linton Ponds, Marden Quarry, Swallow Pond, Wark, West Allotment Pond and Whittle Dene Reservoirs.

**Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps Grisegena*

On 5th three flew N at St Mary's Island (JPD/MPF/AWS) and two flew N at Seaton Sluice. Four were at Whittle Reservoirs on 18th (MR). Two were at Killingworth Lake on 2nd (GB) with a single still present there on 4th/29th (GPK/GB). On 9<sup>th</sup> two juveniles were on Widdrington Moor Lake, two adults were at East Chevington (ASJ) and one at QEII Lake (CDH).

**Slavonian Grebe** *Podiceps auritus*

Very few were noted during the month with peak counts of three at Stag Rocks on 4th (TRD/JD) and St Cuthbert's Island (Holy Island) on 23rd (IK/ADM). The long-staying bird remained at Widdrington Moor Lake until 3rd (ADM) and one was again seen at Branton GP on 1st (JD). One was also at the more usual location of Ross Back Sands on 28th (JL).

**Red Kite** *Milvus milvus*

The only record this month involved a bird hunting at daybreak near Colwell on 12th (MD).

**Hen Harrier** *Circus cyaneus*

Up to two ringtails were at a confidential site throughout the month (JD/MPF/ASW *et al.*) and other single ringtails were seen at two other confidential sites on 15th and 22nd. A male was at another site on 7th and a male drifted low SW over the Snook (Holy Island) on 8th (ADM).

**Goshawk** *Accipiter gentilis*

An adult was seen mobbing a Rough-legged Buzzard in the Cheviots on 18th (MH/AA) and another was seen in the same area hunting grouse on 23rd (MH).

**Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*

Three birds were noted on Holy Island on 20th (PRM) and at Ellington on 29th (TB), two were seen at Bedlington on 2nd (JR), Scotswood (Newcastle) on 6th (PRM), Holy Island on 16th (MJC/ADM), Ellington (TB) and at Holywell Dene (RJP) on 23rd. Single birds were noted at 21 sites during the month.

**Common Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*

Eight birds were seen soaring together near Corbridge on 3rd (MH) and six birds were at Grindon Lough on 22nd (PRM). Five birds were at Alnwick Moor on 2nd (TF/JFa) and in the Harthope Valley on 18th & 29th (JPD). Four were at West Chevington on 16th (TF/JFa) in the Breamish Valley on 22nd (ASJ). One to three birds were at 18 sites.

**Rough-legged Buzzard** *Buteo lagopus*

Up to two, possibly three, birds were in the Broadstruther (Harthope Valley) area throughout the month (ADM *et al.*) and single birds were noted at Allen Banks NT on 1st (PRM) and in the Breamish Valley on 22nd (ASJ).

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetuss*

A very late bird was seen first over St Mary's Island (NPD/MGK) and then over Tynemouth Park (DRW).

**Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus*

Three were heard at East Chevington on 2nd (ADM) and one to two birds were also heard or seen at Big Waters, Blagdon (Brenkley), Castron, Cresswell Pond, East Chevington, Gosforth Park NR, Goswick, Holy Island, Prestwick Carr, QEII CP, St Mary's Island and Wallsend Swallow Pond.

**Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*

20 birds were at Druridge Bay CP on 6th (JMA), 17 were seen at Arcot Pond on 1st (DM), 14 were at Big Waters & QEII CP on 9th (GB/CDH) while 13 were at Humshaugh (Haughton Strother GP) on 4th (MR) and 12 at Hauxley NWT on 15th (HRS). One to nine birds were also at Arcot Pond, Exhibition Park (Newcastle), Hauxley NWT, Holywell Dene, Jesmond Dene (Newcastle), Leazes Park (Newcastle) and Linton Pond.

**Coot** *Fulica atra*

Large counts this month included 190 at QEII CP on 9th (CDH), 155 at East Chevington on 9th (JL) 137 and 146 at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 30th (JPD/AWS) and 107 at Big Waters on 9th (GB). One to fourteen birds were also seen at Arcot Pond, Bothal Pond, Exhibition Park (Newcastle), Humshaugh (Haughton Strother GP), Leazes Park (Newcastle) and Longhirst Flash.

**Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus*

The Aln Estuary held 60 on 20th (JMA), the peak at Hauxley NWT was 52 on 1st (HRS) and 40 were noted at both Newbiggin on 9th (PRM) and Amble Links on 19th (JMA). A walk along Ross Bank Sands revealed 22 at Guile Point on 16th (DM/STH), ten were at Rockcliffe (Whitley Bay) on 2nd (IJ) and a single was inland at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 18th (MR).

**Golden Plover** *Pluvialis apricaria*

Large numbers remained from last month, with ca.2,500 at Chare End Sands (Holy Island) on 23rd (ADM) and 1,100 at St Mary's on 17th (CGK/GPK). Some careful counting inland produced 1,224 at Grindon Lough on 4th (SLH) and 1,120+ at Derwent Reservoir on 20th (IFo). Along the coast, ca.950 were at Marden Rocks, Alnmouth and ca.650 at Boulmer (in a newly sown arable field) on 25th (AB/LB), ca.500 were at East Chevington on 1st (NFO) and 400 were at Old Water, Warkworth on 19th (JMA). The Cresswell coastline area held 150-200 during the month (TRD/JD) and 40 were roosting in an arable field at Hazlerigg (near Wideopen) on 21st (GB).



Golden Plover at St. Mary's by Alan Jack

**Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*

Some 34 noted at Buston Links (Alnmouth) on 22nd was a good count away from Lindisfarne NNR (NFO) and 18 were seen at Guile Point on 16th (DM/STH). A single was on the beach at Hauxley on 8th (HRS) and one calling whilst flying over inland Capheaton on 16th was quite exceptional (STE).

**Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus*

Derwent Reservoir continued to hold the highest numbers with 600 on 20th the monthly maximum (IFo), whilst Grindon Lough saw a peak of ca.460 on 9th (PRM). Other sizeable flocks included 410 at East Chevington on 9th (ASJ), 373 at Haughton Strother GP on 6th (MR), 350 at Old Water, Warkworth on 19th (JMA), 330 at Cresswell Pond on 9th (ASJ) and 300 in Budle Bay on 13th (JMA). Elsewhere, 150-220 were reported from the Aln Estuary, Bothal Pond, Boulmer, Holywell Pond and St Mary's, and 78-130 were at Amble marina, Hauxley NWT, Holy Island causeway and Seaton Sluice (Gloucester Lodge Farm). Ten to 44 were at Arcot Pond, Big Waters, Howdon, Monks' House Pool and Prestwick Carr.



Lapwing at St. Mary's by Alan Jack



**Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*

Coastal counts included 43 at Buston Links (Alnmouth) on 22nd (NFO) and a peak of 33 at St Mary's on 30th (ASJ), and one to five were also at Cresswell, Hauxley and Newbiggin. A single was at inland Haughton Strother GP on 6th (MR).

**Curlew** *Numenius arquata*

A count of 150 at Old Water (Warkworth) on 19th was easily the largest gathering reported (JMA). Some 57 were at Hauxley NWT on 15th (HRS) and 25-48 were at Boulmer, Cresswell Pond, Ellington, Newbiggin and Ross Farm. A further 15 were near Amble weir and single figure reports came from a further five locations.

**Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa*

A good spread of records saw peaks of nine at East Chevington on 9th (ASJ), eight at Woodhorn Flashes on 30th (TB), seven on the Rocket Pool (Holy Island) on 8th (ADM) and at Cresswell Pond on 7th (ADMc) and one to four at Druridge Pools (9th), Fenham Flats (22nd), Holy Island (two W over The Heugh on 16th) and Holywell Pond (three landed briefly on 3rd).

**Bar-tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica*

The high-tide roost at St Cuthbert's Island (Holy Island) totalled ca.450 on 20th (PRM) and singles were seen off Cresswell Ices and at Hauxley, both on 30th (TRD).

**Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*

The most was a high-tide count of 40 at Stag Rocks on 2nd (CDB); 19-25 were noted near Cresswell Ices, Cresswell Pond and Newbiggin, with two to three at Hauxley and Whitley Bay.

**Knot** *Calidris canutus*

In the Newbiggin area 12 were present on 9th, three on 5th and eight on 10th and eight were at Cresswell also on 10th. One was at Tynemouth on 15th. One at Haughton Strother GP on 26th (MR) is a scarce inland record.

**Ruff** *Calidris pugnax*

Singles were at Grindon Lough on 3rd and 9th (PRM) and one was at Cresswell Pond on 4th (IRD).

**Sanderling** *Calidris alba*

At least 300 were in Sandon Bay (Holy Island) on 8th (ADM). Other peak counts were of 100 at Hauxley on 9th (HRS), 89 at St Mary's on 30th (ASJ) and 39 at Newbiggin also on 30th. Stag Rocks had 20 on 4th and the only other record was of one at East Chevington on 30th.

**Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*

Few records were received and even the highest involved modest numbers: 20 at Guile Point on 16th (DM/STH) and 20 near Cresswell Ices on 30th (TRD). The others were of four at Hauxley NWT on 1st, two at Holywell Pond on 3rd and singles at East Chevington on 2nd and inland at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 18th.

**Purple Sandpiper** *Calidris maritima*

Four records came from Stag Rocks, all in the first half, including 57 on 4th (TRD/JD) and a peak of around 120 on 7th (MJC/ADM). Other maxima were 13 at St Mary's on 15th, 12 at Newbiggin on 30th, eight at Seaton Sluice on 15th, seven at Tynemouth on 15th and five at Whitley Bay on 2nd.

**Grey Phalarope** *Phalaropus fulicarius*

On 5th one flew N at St Mary's at 14:45 and no doubt the same one moved N off Seaton Sluice Watch Tower about ten minutes later (MH/BB). At Newbiggin one flew N close in on 17th (ADMc) and one flew S, even closer, on 29th (ADMc). One was reported at Boulmer on 6th (B Galloway *per* IK) and one, mostly on the south side of the Tyne, visited Tynemouth below Knott's Flats on 14th (CB/MGK *et al.*).

**Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*

Three were together at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 18th (MR), two on 24th (AJR) and singles on 9th and 26th. One was at Haughton Strother GP on 6th and another at Doddington on 22nd.

**Spotted Redshank** *Tringa erythropus*

One at East Chevington North Pool on 2nd (ADMc) was noted again there on 4th (AA/MH).

**Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*

Two were seen: one in Budle Bay on 4th (AA/MH) and one at Blagdon (Brenkley) on 15th (GB), the latter coming up from a flash pool and flying S.

**Redshank** *Tringa totanus*

The maximum count at Howdon was 206 on 16th, down to 187 on 23rd and 176 on 26th (CB); 190 were at St Mary's on 30th (ASJ), 106 on R Tyne at Scotswood also on 30th (JL) and 100 at Amble Harbour on 22nd (JMA). There were 64 on R Tyne between Elswick Wharf and Newcastle Business Park on 25th and counts suggested a regular presence at Cresswell Pond of 60-62 and of at least 65 at Newbiggin; 27 were in the Wansbeck Estuary on 2nd and up to 21 in the mudflats near Seaton Sluice. One flew S at Big Waters, where it is 'quite scarce these days', on 2nd and much further inland one was at Grindon Lough on 9th.

**Jack Snipe** *Lymnocyrtus minimus*

At Haughton Strother GP two were present on 10th and one on 26th (MR). Two were at St Mary's Wetland on 22nd (MSH) and one was found in sedge along North Low at Goswick on 25th (MH/AA).

**Woodcock** *Scolopax rusticola*

There was a wealth of sightings with the vast majority, if not all, concerning immigrants and especially in the period 4th to 11th. Extraordinary numbers were witnessed arriving off the sea: one at Seaton Sluice on 5th, two at Tynemouth on 6th, two at Tynemouth on 7th, at least seven at St Mary's (JPD/STH) and singles at Holy Island and Newbiggin on 8th and another at Newbiggin on 10th. On the ground at least seven were at Holy Island during 7th to 10th (ADM *et al.*) and four in the Hauxley area on 8th (HRS). At least two were at Gosforth Park NR throughout and two were in Whitley Bay Cemetery on 27th. Singles were also found at several of the fore-mentioned places and at a further six locations near the coast; one flew S at Grindon Lough on 9th. On 4th in Newcastle one was 'captured' by members of the public in the street near St James' Park and taken to Hancock Museum, presumed injured. On inspection it seemed unharmed and was released at Gosforth Park NR (*per* JL).

**Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*

Easily the largest concentration was of 56 at Haughton Strother GP on 10th (MR); the other highest were 27 at St Mary's on 22nd (CB) and 20 at Cresswell Pond on 11th (TRD/JD). Nine to 18 were noted at Big Waters, Doddington, Hauxley NWT, and Monks' House Pool, four to six at Capheaton, Gosforth Park NR, Grindon Lough, Howdon and Linton Pond and one to two at Derwent Reservoir and Longhorsley Moor.

**Pomarine Skua** *Stercorarius pomarinus*

A total of 66, all juveniles, passed N at Seaton Sluice Watch Tower: nine on 5th, one on 6th, 55 on 17th and one on 28th. Passage N on the 'big day' of 17th was reflected elsewhere: 36 at Newbiggin, all immature, in 1.5 hours (ADM<sub>c</sub>), including groups of 14, eight and five; 17 at St Mary's in two separate hours (MSH/AC). Also on 17th one flew N and three moved S at Tynemouth. On 5th 12 passed St Mary's, all but one N (JPD/MPF/AWS) and a juvenile flew S at Tynemouth. Singles passed Tynemouth on 6th, S at Hadston (adult) on 21st and Ross Back Sands on 28th.

**Arctic Skua** *Stercorarius parasiticus*

A total of five (two N and three S) passed Seaton Sluice Watch Tower during 2nd to 15th. One flew S at Tynemouth on 5th and one flew N at St Mary's on 17th.

**Great Skua** *Stercorarius skua*

On 5th seven flew S at Tynemouth during 08:20 to 11:15 (DRW) and four moved N at Seaton Sluice Watch Tower. Three were reported from Newbiggin on 17th (IK) and one was at Stag Rocks on 4th (JD).

**Auk** *sp*

On 5th, 320 flying N in one hour was by far the largest movement with 70 S in two hours on 2nd (SSWT).

**Puffin** *Fratercula arctica*

Few records, with only one to three at Ross Back Sands, Seaton Sluice, St Mary's Island and Tynemouth.

**Black Guillemot** *Cephus grylle*

A first-winter bird flew N at Church Point (Newbiggin) on 5th before dropping onto a rough sea, to be lost from sight (ADM<sub>c</sub>).

**Razorbill** *Alca torda*

Three records came from Stag Rocks comprising two single-figure counts on 4th and 15th (TRD/JD/BRS), and at least 40 there on 9th (BRS); a single was at Embleton on 1st (AJH)..

**Little Auk** *Alle alle*

A significant movement N was witnessed from 5th-7th, with an estimated 1,000 at Boulmer on 6th (BG *per* IK), totals of ca.600 at Seaton Sluice and 620 at Newbiggin on 5th-6th (PHH/ADM<sub>c</sub>/SSWT) and 507 at St Mary's Island on 5th (JPD/MPF/AWS). Elsewhere during this influx, 50-70 were seen at St Mary's Island and Tynemouth (MSH/GPK/DRW). A second, smaller movement was noted on 17th when several sites, Newbiggin, St Mary's Island and Tynemouth recorded counts of up to 87 moving N during short periods of seawatching (MSH/AC/ADM<sub>c</sub>/IK/CGK/GPK). The species was also recorded in numbers of one to ten on many other dates at several coastal localities between Holy Island and Tynemouth, with the last sighting at St Mary's Island on 27th (GPK).

**Guillemot** *Uria aalge*

Apart from 19 reported moving N in two hours during the early morning of 5th at St Mary's Island (MSH), only singles were seen at Bamburgh, Stag Rocks and Embleton during the first week.

**Sandwich Tern** *Sterna sandvicensis*

An adult at Stag Rocks on 4th (AA/MH) and two sightings, of possibly the same bird, at Cresswell Pond and Snab Point on the 15th (ADM<sub>c</sub>), were the only reports.

**Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*

Three juveniles passed S at Seaton Sluice on 3rd-4th (SSWT).

**Kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla*

A large movement was noted on 5th when ca.700 passed N at Seaton Sluice (SSWT) and 600 was the total recorded over eight hours at St Mary's Island (JPD/MPF/AWS). Otherwise only small numbers were seen at Seaton Sluice through the month.

**\*Bonaparte's Gull** *Chroicocephalus philadelphia*

One very lucky observer at Swallow Pond on 29th recorded an adult of this species which dropped in mainly for a 'wash and brush-up', staying only for a few minutes before flying off SSE (SPP).

**Black-headed Gull** *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

An estimate of a flock size at Tynemouth on 10th was 2,000 (ASJ) and large gatherings elsewhere were 350 on Hauxley beach on 5th (HRS), 260 at QEII CP on 9th (CDH) and at least 250 on the Silverlink LNR on 29th (CGK/GPK). Smaller concentrations of 50-200 were widespread, being recorded at Arcot Pond, Blyth (South Beach), Bothal Pond, Exhibition Park, Hauxley NWT, Jesmond Dene, Leazes Park, Seaton Sluice and Whitley Bay with 10-50 at four other localities.



A Black-headed Gull lands at Amble Harbour  
by Chris Barlow

**Little Gull** *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

Remnants of the sizeable September/October influx were still to be seen until mid-month, with few recorded after 18th. At Seaton Sluice, 465 moved S from 1st-3rd, the largest November movement for the site (SSWT) and 50-60 fed offshore on 1st at St Mary's Island (SPP) where, by the 9th, the numbers had declined to 12 (JPD/MPF/AWS). At Bamburgh Stag Rocks groups of 13-46 were present from 4th-9th (BRS/AA/MH), ten fed over the sea at Cresswell Snab Point on 18th (JSB/EC) and nine were at Bondicarr (Hauxley) on 9th (MH). The last sightings on 22nd (CB) were two at Tynemouth and a single at St Mary's Island.

**Mediterranean Gull** *Larus melanocephalus*

Single birds passed N and S at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT). The largest gathering occurred in the South Bay at Newbiggin on 30th when at least 31 were present (PRM) but smaller numbers, of up to eight, were recorded there through the month. A bird at Newbiggin on 18th carried a yellow leg-ring marked 2H62 (EC/JSB) and one in nearby Sandy Bay on 8th was ringed PLL1, in Poland, in 2010 (GB). From Cresswell Snab Point on 9th, at least eight were recorded (JL) and Ellington had a count of six on 8th (TB) with one or two also there on other dates. Three localities elsewhere, namely Hauxley NWT, St Mary's Island and Swallow Pond, also recorded one or two.

**Common Gull** *Larus canus*

A flock of 122 were at Akeld Steads on 9th (JR) and, elsewhere, 100 were at Hebron on 17th (JMA). Smaller gatherings of 40-80 frequented the Breamish Valley, two localities near Doddington and Grindon Lough (JMA/JR/SJH). One to ten were recorded at four other sites.



**Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus graelsii*

Small numbers remained in the county and eight moving SW over Haughton Strother GP on 4th were probably migrants. Apart from four at Colt Crag Reservoir on 19th (MR) only one or two were noted at Big Waters, Branton GP (an injured bird), Cresswell Pond and Swallow Pond. The regular over-wintering adult was again recorded at Cramlington (DM).

**Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus argenteus*

The largest gathering of 100 occurred at Amble Harbour on 22nd and a flock of 80 was at Monkseaton High School on 3rd (both JMA). Elsewhere were ten to 20 at Blyth, Haughton Strother GP, Leazes Park and Whitley Bay, with one to nine at three other sites.

**Glaucous Gull** *Larus hyperboreus*

Three records were all of first-winter birds which possibly comprised a single, but mobile, individual. The first on 6th was one at Boulmer (BG per IK), the second at North Shields Fish Quay where one arrived on 22nd with a fishing boat (CB) and on 30th, one was on the breakwater at Newbiggin before flying off N (STH).

**Great Black-backed Gull** *Larus marinus*

Two counts in the Coquet Estuary were 250 and 400 on 6th and 22nd with 25 at the nearby Amble Weir on 6th (all JMA). Elsewhere, 42 were in Budle Bay on 16th (DM/STH) but all other records were of either one or two from the River Tyne at Newcastle Business Park (DM), Whitley Bay (IJ) and from two inland sites, Grindon Lough and Wark (PRM).

**Rock Dove** *Columba livia*

There was just one report of 14 at Southfield Green (Cramlington) on 5th (DM).

**Stock Dove** *Columba oenas*

Largest count of 54 at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 2nd (TB), 30 at Big Waters on 30th with 15 there on 9th (GB) and 22 the maximum at Howdon on 26th (CB). One to four were at Allen Banks NT, Jesmond Dene and Marden Quarry (Whitley Bay).

**Woodpigeon** *Columba palumbus*

The maximum count for the month at Howdon was 26 on 19th (CB) with ten at Jesmond Dene on 2nd (MJCo) and two in the observer's garden at Walbottle on 30th (KR/LR).

**Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*

Around 60 were at North Moor Farm (Seaton Delaval) on 4th and 18 at Bedlington on the same date (JR). Two to four were at Brenkley, Dinnington and Walbottle.

**Ring-necked Parakeet** *Psittacula krameri*

Six or seven flew across Monkchester Road (Walker) together on 6th with birds heard at Wiemore Avenue on 10th and a single in trees at Monkchester Road on 19th (SPP).

**Barn Owl** *Tyto alba*

All multiple counts came from Holy Island with a peak of four at three locations on 8th, an adult and two juveniles in the Village on 16th and two to three on 14th, 19th and 20th (ADM/MJC/PRM). Singles were at Longhorsley Moor on 5th, Holywell Dene on 10th and Ouston Fell on 12th with a single in the Whitley Bay area on three dates from 15th to 28th.

**Little Owl** *Athene noctua*

Singles were at Big Waters on three dates during the month (GB), in trees on the road from Widdrington to Druridge on 2nd (JD) and Halton Steads on 18th (MD).

A Little Owl eyeballs  
Tim Dean at Druridge  
on 11th November



**Tawny Owl** *Strix aluco*

Four calling birds were at Capheaton on 16th (STE), three at Rothbury and Gosforth Park during the month (JD/NHSN) with a male at Wark (N.Tyne) on four dates and singles at Alnwick, Bedlington, Castron, Hauxley, Walbottle and Wallington.

*asio sp*

Birds flew in off the sea at Tynemouth on 5th and 12th (GPK).

**Long-eared owl** *Asio otus*

One flew in off the sea at Seaton Sluice Watch Tower on 6th (SSWT).

**Short-eared owl** *Asio flammeus*

At Holy Island four roosting birds were found in dunes on 9th (BG per IK) with two at the excavations on 7th (ADM) and singles on 8th & 19th. One was at Hauxley NWT on 5th and 11th (HRS/MJC), and came in off the sea at Seaton Sluice Watch Tower on 17th.

**Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*

Two were at Castle Farm Road Bridge (Jesmond Dene) on 16th (MJCo) with singles all month at Haughton Strother GP and at Cresswell Pond till 19th (MR/ADM). Well reported elsewhere with one at 14 widely spread inland locations and four on the coast.

**Green Woodpecker** *Picus viridis*

Singles were at Blakehopeburnhaugh on 3rd (TRD/JD), Swallowship Wood (Hexham) on 9th (AJH) and The Chirm (Wingates) on 24th (AB/LB).

**Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major*

On 3rd three were at Wark (N.Tyne) (PRM) and on reserve / in gardens at Hauxley Ringing Station on 15th (HRS). Two were at Craster on 6th and Riding Mill on 10th (MJC/PCF) with singles regularly at Bamburgh, Valley Park (Cramlington), Chugdon Wood (Ellington), Hauxley, Holywell Dene and at 13 other widespread localities.

**Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*

Eight birds were in the Featherstone/Thirlwall common area on 15th (MH) and Holy Island had five-six on several dates (MJC/ADM). Three birds were at Prestwick Carr on 3rd (PCF), Harthope Valley on 22nd and Cresswell Pond on 29th (ASJ). One - two were also at 40 sites.

**Merlin** *Falco columbarius*

Up to three birds were at Holy Island during the month (MJC). Single birds were also seen at Boulmer, Druridge, East Sleekburn, Fenham Flats, Grindon Lough, in the Cheviots and at Tynemouth.

**Hobby** *Falco Subbuteo*

On 9th a late bird was watched hunting and perching at Beal (Lindisfarne NNR) and at one stage it caught a Twite *Carduelis flavirostris* (BG per IK).

**Peregrine** *Falco peregrinus*

Two birds were seen at Widdrington Moor Lake on 4th (MH/AA); single birds were seen on or near the coast at Cresswell Pond, Fenham Flats, Holy Island, Seaton Sluice and Tynemouth. Inland, birds were seen at Alnwick Moor, Capheaton, Derwent Reservoir, Grindon Lough, Humshaugh and in the Cheviots.

**Magpie** *Pica pica*

A pre-roost gathering of 19 at Kingston Park on 10th (PCF), 11 at Jesmond Dene on 23rd (MJCo), ten in the observer's garden at Walbottle on 2nd and 23rd (KR/LR) and eight in Wansbeck Estuary on 2nd (STH/PJA). Still uncommon on Holy Island, one at Straight Lonnen rose to two at Crooked Lonnen on 16th (MJC/ADM).

**Jay** *Garrulus glandarius*

During the month a peak count of six at Gosforth Park NR (NHSN), four at Ellington on 29th (TB), three at Capheaton on 4th (STE) with two at eight locations including a garden at Stamfordham and Fourlaws Plantation (Ridsdale) where they were noted as scarce (EC/IK). Single birds were at 14 other widespread locations including firsts for two gardens at Gosforth.

**Jackdaw** *Corvus monedula*

Large counts of 500 at Holywell Dene on 27th (ASJ), 120 at Chesterhill (Budle Bay) on 13th, 75 at Melton Park on 3rd, 40 at Seaton Burn on the same date (JMA) and 33 at Howdon on 19th (CB). Three to 17 were at Alnwick, Jesmond Dene and a Walbottle garden.

**Rook** *Corvus frugilegus*

A peak of 200 at Holywell Dene on 30th (ASJ), 120 at Chesterhill (Budle Bay) , 80 at Alnwick Moor and 40 at Elwick all on 13th with 2 in an Alnwick garden on 30th (JMA).



A Rook at Amble by Chris Barlow

**Carrion Crow** *Corvus corone*

In the Wansbeck Estuary on 2nd 28 fed on Sea-buckthorn berries with 23 there on 8th (STE/PJA/GB), seven at Jesmond Dene on 23rd (MJCo) and two pairs regularly fighting over kitchen scraps in a Walbottle garden during the month (KR/LR).

**Raven** *Corvus corax*

Six, including several tumbling, were noted at Harthope Valley on 23rd (MH/NFO), three at Harthope Valley on 29th (JPD/MPF/AWS), two at Blakehopeburnhaugh on 3rd, Kidland Lee on 13th Fourlaws Plantation (Ridsdale) on 16th and Carey Burn on 23rd with singles at four inland locations and at Holy Island.

**Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus*

Continued passage saw good numbers, the peak counts 25 at Druridge Bay CP on 9th (TB), 17 at Holy Island on 19th (ADM) with multiple counts there on a further seven days, 15 inland at Allen Banks NT on 1st (PRM), ten at Wark (N.Tyne) on 3rd and Bamburgh Castle Wood on 23rd. On 15th eight were at St Mary's Island, seven at Hauxley Ringing Station and six at East Sleekburn with five at Fourlaws Plantation (Ridsdale) on 16th, Brierdene (Whitley Bay) on 17th. One to four were at 17 other widespread localities.

**Blue Tit** *Cyanistes caeruleus*

Large counts of 15 at East Sleekburn on 15th, 11 at Routing Lynn (Ford) on 9th (JR), 10 at Prestwick Carr on 1st (PCF) with six the most in a Walbottle garden on 2nd and at Shawdon on 13th. Two to four were at an Alnwick garden, Hauxley RS including two ringed, Jesmond Dene and Brierdene (Whitley Bay).



A Blue Tit  
Gosforth NR  
8th November  
by Gary Eden



**Great Tit** *Parus major*

Eleven at Haughton Strother GP on 10th (MR), ten at Shiremoor on 8th (CGK), nine at East Sleekburn on 15th, six at Routing Lynn (Ford) on 9th (JR), five at Jesmond Dene on 16th (MJCo) and four in a Walbottle garden on 2nd (KR/LR) with a single caught and ringed at Hauxley Ringing Station on 1st.

**Coal Tit** *Periparus ater*

Hauxley Ringing Station reported seven on 1st, four at Bamburgh Castle Wood on 23rd (ADM), on to three in an Old Hartley garden (RJP) and two the peak in a Walbottle garden on 2nd with one at Jesmond Dene on the same date.

**Willow Tit** *Poecile montanus*

On 15th six were at Prestwick Carr with four together possibly a family party and seen again on 29th (PCF), two were in a Holywell garden nearby in Holywell Dene (RJP), at Brierdene on 15th and Whitley Bay Cemetery on 17th (CGK/JPD) with singles at the preceding locations, Eshott on 19th, Linden Hall (Longhorsley) on 23rd, and Derwent Reservoir on 27th.

**Marsh Tit** *Poecile palustris*

Four at Scotch Gill Woods (Morpeth) on 3rd (MLC), three at Wallington on 2nd (AJR) and two at Craster all month, Letah Wood (Hexham) on 3rd (first for a year) and Wark (North Tyne) on the same date. Singles were at Longhorsley, a garden feeder at Rothbury and Wallington.

**Bearded Tit** *Panurus biarmicus*

A pair were in front of the south hide at East Chevington North Pool before flying S (TB).

**Skylark** *Alauda arvensis*

Movement S noted at Hauxley RS with 20 on 1st and 15 on 8th, 20 in stubble at Holywell on 20th (ASJ), 16 between Shiremoor and Murton on 8th (CGK) and in fields at St Mary's on 15th. Eleven moved S at Ross Bank Sands on 16th, eight at Whitelea/Beacon Hill (Cramlington) on 1st (DM), seven in off the sea at Seaton Sluice Watch Tower on 4th, six between Corbridge and Dilston Haughs on 3rd, some in full song (MH) and one to three at Alnwick Moor, Big Waters, Southfield Green (Cramlington) and Spital (Newbiggin).

**Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*

There were three late individuals with one over a Wallsend garden on 1st (JPD), a juvenile around Holy Island on 2nd (ADM) and flying S at Emmanuel Head there on 11th (*per* IK).

**Long-tailed Tit** *Aegithalos caudatus*

About 30 were noted at Wark (North Tyne) on 3rd (PRM). Counts of 20 came from Allen Banks on 1st (PRM), Cramlington (Alexandra Park) on 20th (DM) and East Sleekburn on 15th (JR), while 11-15 were reported from Branton, Ellington, Ford, Humshaugh, Morpeth and Prestwick Carr. Elsewhere six to ten were noted at Alnwick, Annitsford, Cramlington (Valley Park), Druridge Pools, Holywell Pond, Rothbury and a Walbottle garden, with one to three at a further three localities.

**Pallas's Warbler** *Phylloscopus proregulus*

This Siberian vagrant is becoming increasingly rare in the county. A single was found near Whitley Bay GC (Astley Track) on 15th (AC/JPD).

**Yellow-browed Warbler** *Phylloscopus inornatus*

Singles were at Hauxley RS and St Mary's Island on 1st (HRS/MSH) and at Bamburgh on 4th (BRS).

**Hume's Warbler** *Phylloscopus humei*

A well watched individual was at Brierdene (Whitley Bay) from 22nd-24th (AC/IF/PHH/CDB *et al.*).

The Brierdene Hume's Warbler  
by Chris Barlow

**Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita*

Birds were reported from Holy Island on ten dates from 2nd-23rd, with peaks of three on 2nd, 10th and 20th (ADM/IK/PRM). Two were at Hauxley RS on 1st, Brierdene on 17th and Bamburgh on 22nd, while singles were also reported from Brenkley, Cresswell Pond, Gosforth Park NR, Longbenton, Lynemouth, St Mary's and Tynemouth.

Single birds showing characteristics of the **Siberian race** *P.c.tristis* were at Holy Island from 5th-8th (MJC/ADM) and 19th-20th (ADM/PRM) and at Bamburgh Castle wood and Druridge Pools on 23rd (ADM/JPD)



A Siberian race Chiffchaff at the Snook on Holy Island  
by Mike Carr on 5th November

**Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus*

A very late individual was at Hauxley RS on 5th (HRS).

**Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*

Four were at Holy Island on 2nd (ADM). Two were reported from Bamburgh on 4th, Holy Island on 5th and 10th, Whitley Bay Cemetery on 9th and Brierdene on 17th. Elsewhere singles were noted at Bamburgh, Hauxley RS, Holywell Dene, Killingworth, Morpeth, Shiremoor, Tynemouth, Walbottle and the Wansbeck Estuary on various dates to the month end.

**Barred Warbler** *Sylvia nisoria*

One was feeding on berries in a hotel garden on Holy Island on 2nd (CDB).

**Great Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*

One was found on the cliff top at Old Hartley on 14th (CB/AC).

**Waxwing** *Bombycilla garrulus*

One at Bamburgh on 7th (MJC) and four flying in off the sea at Newbiggin on 8th were the first of the winter (GB). Two to three were at Brierdene (Whitley Bay) from 23rd-24th (JPD/MPF/AWS *et al.*) and another flew over Newbiggin on 30th (PRM).

A Waxwing at Brierdene,  
one of the only sightings of  
the first half of the Winter

by Chris Barlow





**Nuthatch** *Sitta europaea*

Four were at Brenkley on 15th (GB) and at Carrycoats Hall on 21st (TB). Three + were noted at Allen Banks and three at Jesmond Dene and Melkridge, while two were reported from Chugdon Wood (Ellington) and singles from Holywell Dene, Morpeth, a Walbottle garden and Wark (North Tyne).



Above, a dapper Nuthatch  
and right, a Treecreeper

Both photographed at Gosforth NR by Gary Eden  
8th November

**Treecreeper** *Certhia familiaris*

Two were at Hauxley RS on 1st and 8th and at Jesmond Dene on 9th. Singles were reported from Chugdon Wood (Ellington), Craster and Holywell Dene.





**Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Holy Island witnessed several distinct influxes, with 27-40 from 2nd-8th (peak count on 5th), 15-42 from 15th-19th (peak on 16th) and 22 on 23rd (ADM/MJC). Elsewhere 25+ were at Druridge Pools on 17th (MJC), 15 at Prestwick Carr on 15th, 13 at Prestwick Carr on 1st (PCF), nine at Bamburgh on 7th and 23rd and five to six at Hauxley RS, Holywell Dene and St Mary's Island; two to three were reported from a further six localities.

**Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*

The regular Holy Island Lough roost held 26,000 on 20th (PRM) and 1,000 roosted at Lambley on 18th (SJR). At least 250 were at Airy Holm Reservoir (Shotleyfield) on 20th and 90-100 were reported from Blyth Harbour, Blyth South Beach, Boulmer and Grindon Lough with up to 50 noted at a further six localities.

**Dipper** *Cinclus cinclus*

Three were on the river at Branton GP on 1st (JD) and three were noted in the Cheviots between Wooler Common and Broadstrother on 9th (MJC). There were reports of two from Allen Banks, Blakehopeburnhaugh, Breamish Valley, Harthope Valley, Jesmond Dene and Whittle Dene Reservoirs, and singles at Dilston Haughs (Corbridge), Ingram and singing from a small beck in Fulbeck (Morpeth).

**Thrush sp.**

424 came in off the sea at Seaton Sluice on 6th (SSWT).

**Blackbird** *Turdus merula*

216 were at Hauxley RS on 1st (HRS). Numbers at Holy Island rose from 62 on 5th to 96 on 6th; there were 61 here on 16th (MJC/ADM) and a peak count of 185+ on 20th (PRM). Elsewhere, 45 were reported from Craster on 6th, 13 were at Bamburgh on 7th, 30 at Marden Quarry on 9th and 25+ at both Brierdene and Druridge Pools on 17th. Movement inland was apparent with 25 at Reaveley on 13th, 'large numbers' in hedgerows between Birtley and Barrasford Park (North Tyne) on 19th and 20 at Haughton Strother (Humshaugh) also on 19th; 21 were at Thrunton Woods on 22nd. Counts of 13-17 came from inland locations at Alnwick, Coeburn, Howden and Ingram. One to ten at a further seven localities included a male in a small hawthorn at Big Waters which refused to be flushed by a large female Sparrowhawk, a stand-off which lasted for several minutes (GB).

**Fieldfare** *Turdus pilaris*

Although birds continued to arrive at the coast, the largest flocks were to be found inland, these including 140 at Coanwood Burn on 18th (SJH), 120 at Prestwick Carr on 16th (PCF), 110 at the Harthope Valley on 23rd and at least 100 at Birtley-Barrasford Park (North Tyne), Doddington and Haughton Strother GP and 50-60 at Derwent Reservoir and Humshaugh. On the coast, 125 arrived off the sea at Tynemouth on 6th. There were counts of one to 53 at Holy Island on 11 dates with a peak on 6th (SPP/MJC). One to 20 were noted at a further eight localities.

**Song Thrush** *Turdus philomelos*

Small numbers continued to arrive at the coast during the month. Holy Island held five on 6th, one on 7th and 12 on 16th (MJC/ADM). There were ten at Hauxley RS on 1st and four there on 15th and five at the Wansbeck Estuary on 8th. Elsewhere two to four were reported from Coeburn, East Chevington, East Sleekburn, Ellington, Jesmond Dene and Prestwick Carr.

**Redwing** *Turdus iliacus*

Inland flocks included 100 at Allen Banks on 1st (PRM) and 60 at Haughton Strother GP (Humshaugh) on 4th. Small flocks continued to arrive at Holy Island where fluctuating numbers were reported throughout the month, including peak counts of 56 on 6th and 57+ on 20th (MJC/ADM); one to 44 were noted here on a further seven dates to 23rd. Elsewhere, 41 were at Arcot Lane and 36 at Howden on 23rd, 32 came in off the sea at Tynemouth on 6th and 20-30 were noted at Humshaugh, Longhorsley, Scots Gap and Wark (North Tyne) with one to 15 at a further ten localities.

**Mistle Thrush** *Turdus viscivorus*

30 in the Harthope Valley on 18th was by far the largest gathering (JPD/MPF/AWS). Elsewhere, 12 were at Corbridge on 25th, seven at Morpeth on 11th and six at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 2nd and at Jesmond Dene on 23rd. Counts of one to three came from Allen Banks, Colt Crag Reservoir, Dinington, Hauxley RS, Longhirst, Morpeth and Wark (North Tyne).

**Robin** *Erithacus rubecula*

Holy Island witnessed a series of sizeable influxes during the month, with a peak count of 139+ on 20th (PRM); further counts from here included 29 on 2nd, 36 on 5th, 45 on 16th and 32 on 19th (MJC/ADM). Ten to 13 were noted at Bamburgh, Hauxley RS and St Mary's Island during the first week and a further mid-month count of 20+ came from Druridge Pools on 17th. Two to five were reported from a further six localities.

**Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochruros*

An excellent month for the species began with three at Dunstanburgh on 1st (AJH) and one at Blakemoor Farm (Cresswell Pond) on 2nd (ADMc/TRD/JD). Singles were at Hauxley and North Blyth on 9th (HRS/STH/PJA). A mid-month influx produced further singles at Tynemouth Priory on 15th (DRW/SPP), Newbiggin (Church Point) on 17th, Holy Island from 18th-23rd (ADM/IK) and Bamburgh on 25th (AC). The month ended with four at Newbiggin (Church Point) on 29th (ADMc) with three remaining on 30th (PRM).



A Black Redstart at Newbiggin by Tim Dean on 30th November

**Siberian Stonechat** *Saxicola maurus*

One was found and photographed at Newbiggin (Spital) on 8th (GB/LAR).

**Stonechat** *Saxicola rubicola*

Peak counts were as follows;

Site	Peak count	Observer	Site	Peak count	Observer
<b>Coastal:</b>					
Chevington Burn mouth-Hadston Carrs	9 (4 pairs+ male)	MH	Monks' House Pool	2	BRS
Stag Rocks-Budle Point	6	MJC/ADM	Druridge Pools	2	MJC
Holy Island	6	IK	Hauxley RS	1	HRS
Snab Point (Cresswell)	4	JL	Alnmouth Bay	1 (female)	AB/LB
Blyth Bay	4	GPK			
East Chevington	4 (2 pairs)	ASJ	<b>Inland:</b>		
Cresswell Pond	3	ASJ	Longhorsley Moor	2 (a pair)	AB/LB
Buston Links (Alnmouth)	3	NFO	Prestwick Carr	2	PCF
Newton Point	2	DM/STH	Quarry House Moor	1	JR
Wansbeck Estuary	2	STH/PJA	Carey Burn (Cheviots)	1 (male)	MH/AA
Tynemouth	2	DRW			

**Duncock** *Prunella modularis*

On 1st of the month, 22 were at Hauxley Ringing Station, where two were ringed. One to three were at four other sites in the month.

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*

The month's maximum count was of 61 birds at a roost in the grounds of Jubilee Lodge (Cramlington) on 23rd and another roost at Southfield Green, also Cramlington, held 34 (DMcK). On Holy Island, an estimated 40 were present on 2nd (CDB). Elsewhere, ten were in a Walbottle garden and a single ringed at Hauxley.

**Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus*

A Walbottle garden held a good count of 31 birds on 23<sup>rd</sup> (KR/LR). 30 were at Roseden on 13th and Holywell on 20<sup>th</sup> (JMA/ASJ). 28 moved S at Spital (Newbiggin) on 9th and 23 also flew S at Tynemouth on 16th (TRC/DRW). Groups of 25 and 23 were noted at Ellington and Haughton Strother during the month (TB/MR). 19 were trapped and ringed at Bamburgh during the month. Groups of three, four and ten came into garden feeders at Tynemouth, Old Hartley and Corbridge. One to 13 were at eight further sites in the month.

**Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*

Pairs were noted at Jesmond Dene, Holywell Dene and Tynemouth. Singles were widely reported at 22 sites, mainly in the South East of the County throughout the month, including one in a Walbottle garden.

**Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla alba*

A good count of 22 feeding at Chevington Burn mouth, on the beach, on 16th(ASJ). The only other reports were of two at Jesmond Dene on 23rd and a single at Whitley Bay on 2nd.



A Pied Wagtail at St. Mary's by Alan Jack

**Meadow Pipit** *Anthus pratensis*

Several good counts for November included 30 in rough grassland at East Chevington on 9th (MH), 20+ at St. Mary's on 8th (MHS) and 20 well inland at Featherstone Common on 15th (MH). Other inland sightings during the month, involved 8 birds near Corbridge, five in the Harthope Valley and two in the Ingram Valley (MH/ASJ). 15 were at Dinnington on 30th(GB), and 12 in the Shiremoor area on 8th, on the beach at Chevington Burn mouth on 9th, and at St. Mary's on 17th (MH/ASJ/CGK/GPK). A single flew SE at Big Waters on 16th.

**Rock Pipit** *Anthus petrosus*

17 counted on Holy Island on 7th, increased to an impressive 51 the following day, dropping back to 21 by 13th and ten by 14th (ADM). 12+ were at St Mary's on 3rd and 8th, increasing to 14 on 9th, with 11 noted there 15th (MHS/JPD/AWS/ASJ). One to five at a further nine county-wide sites throughout the month.



**Richard's Pipit** *Anthus richardi*

An individual of this scarce species was found at Newton Point on 16th (DMcK/ STH).

**Brambling** *Fringilla montifringilla*

Two flew over the Snook (Holy Island) on 7th, where three were seen on 20th (MJC/PRM). Two at Bamburgh on 13th and singles noted at Wansbeck Estuary, Wark and Big Waters feeding station.

**Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs*

On 8th 12 were at Hauxley and 11 at Prestwick Carr. One to seven at a further four sites, two of which involved garden feeders.

**Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

The month's peak count was of 12 at Longhorsely Moor on 5th (AB/LB). Eight were at both Prestwick Carr on 15th and at Big Waters on 16th (PCF/GB). Seven was the maximum count visiting an Old Hartley garden during the month (RJP). One to seven frequented a further 24 sites .

**Greenfinch** *Chloris chloris*

The only report this month was of 12 birds visiting a Walbottle Garden (KR/LR).

**Linnet** *Carduelis cannabina*

There was a large tree-top flock of 210 at Holywell on 20th, many constantly calling then dropping to feed, reduced to 155 by 29th (ASJ). 150 were in dunes at Chevington Burn mouth on 9th (ASJ). 25 were at Big Waters on 30th (GB). Four to ten were at three further sites.

**Twite** *Carduelis flavirostris*

Two large flocks at traditional sites in the north of the County involved 130 at Beal foreshore on 22nd, and around 120 with Linnets at Stag Rocks/Budle Point on 14th (IK/ADM). At the Snook (Holy Island), 79 on 2nd decreased to 43 by 19th. Up to 25+ seen here on subsequent days (ADM/PRM/MJC). 60+ were at Hemscott Hill on 23rd (JPD/MPF/AWS). Two to eight + seen at a further six sites including, unusually, Holywell.



A Twite at sunrise, The Snook, Holy Island  
by Mike Carr on 22nd November

**Lesser Redpoll** *Carduelis caberet*

Well reported this month, with the maximum count a flock in the Harthope Valley on 18th of 300+(JPD/MPF/AWS). 75 were noted in two flocks near Bakethin on 30th (AM/MD). Around 55 were feeding in Alders at Thrunton Woods on 22nd (ASJ). Another feeding flock of at least 50 birds was observed at Derwent Reservoir on 27th (IFo). On 4th of the month, 40 were seen at Grindon (SJH). Around 30 noted, again in the Harthope Valley, on 23rd (NFO) and two counts at Grindon were of 20 on 3rd and around 25 on 18th (PRM). Also on this date, a group of 25 noted at Swallow Pond, which had increased in number from seven birds on 8th (SPP). A further one to 18 were noted at eight sites, including six birds flying S at St. Mary's on 8th.

**Redpoll** sp.

At the coast, birds not specifically raced, involved 28 flying S at Spital (Newbiggin) on 9th and six likewise at Marden Quarry on 2nd (KWY). Two were at Hauxley and St.Mary's on 8th and 30th. Singles also noted at three other sites in the South East.

**Crossbill** *Loxia curvirostra*

A flock of 29 birds feeding at Thrunton on 22nd, included a singing male(ASJ). On 3rd at Blakehopeburnhaugh, 24 in several small groups were noted (TRD/JD), with 20 at Bakethin on 30th (MD). Ten birds were seen at Ridsdale on 16th (IK) and eight over the observer's garden at Fulbeck (Morpeth) on 30th was notable (TD). Also in Morpeth, at Lancaster Park, two seen on 7th flying W, as were seven here on 17th (MD). Two were noted flying SW at Brunton Park (Gosforth) on 8th (MJC), two at Blagdon on 15th and two were in the Harthope Valley on 18th and at Catcleugh on 30th .

**Godfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*

A large flock of around 200 was feeding in dunes near Chevington Burn mouth on 9th (ASJ). 75 were at Branton on 13th (JMA). 60+ were noted at Druridge Pools on 17th and Holywell, at a feeding station, on 29th (MJC/ASJ). Around 40 at East Sleekburn on 22nd had dropped to 20 the following day (JR). 18 at Brunswick Green (Wideopen) on 6th (DMcK). One to 14 were at a further six sites, including ten in a Walbottle garden(KR/LR).

**Siskin** *Carduelis spinus*

Large flocks this month at Haughton Strother and the Harthope Valley consisted of 200+ on 15th and 100+ on 18th respectively (MR/JPD/MPF/AWS). 50 flew S at Tynemouth on 9th (DRW). On the same date, in the Cheviots, between Wooler Common and Broadstruther, 36 were counted (MJC). At the coast, 20 were at Marden Quarry on 9th, 20 at Wark on 23rd, 15 at Thrunton Woods on 22nd and at Prestwick Carr on 23rd (KWY/PRM/ASJ/PCF). A further one to four were at ten sites during the month.

**Snow Bunting** *Plectrophenax nivalis*

15 were seen feeding in stubble near Brier Dene Farm (Whitley Bay) on 27th and 14 feeding on the beach at Chevington Burn mouth on 16th (GPK/ASJ). 12 at Stag Rocks to Budle Point (Bamburgh) on 7th, with six here on 14th. Eight at Ross Back Sands on 16th (Dmck/STH). Two groups of four on Holy Island on 17th (MJC/ADM). Six were on the Golf Course at Newbiggin on 20th (TRC). One to three at six other sites during the month.

**Lapland Bunting** *Calcarius lapponicus*

Two were at the Snook (Holy Island) on 20th and a single flew over the village here on 16th (PRM/MJC). Other singles were noted at Tynemouth, flying N on 9th and flying S at East Chevington on 23rd (DRW/TF/JFa).

**Yellowhammer** *Emberiza citronella*

At Holywell, a feeding flock of 36 noted on 20th remained here on 29th, numbers slightly dropping to 30 birds (ASJ). 25 were at Ellington on 2nd (TB) and 15 seen at Buston Links on 22nd (NFO). Nine were inland in the Ingram Valley on 9th with ten seen at Alnwick Moor on 16th (JR/ASJ). One to four were at Big Waters and Holywell Dene during the month.

**Reed Bunting** *Emberiza shoeniclus*

24 on Holy Island on 20th and 22 at Holywell on the same date were the month's largest counts (PRM/ASJ). 12 were between Shiremoor and Murton on 8th (CGK) and ten at Buston Links on 22nd (NFO). Seven noted at Prestwick Carr on 15th and four at St. Mary's on 3rd (PCF/ASJ). One to three at a further six sites, including a single well inland at Grindon.

**ESCAPES, HYBRIDS AND BIRDS OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN****Escapes****Bar-headed Goose** *Anser indicus*

Two were seen at Woodhorn Church flash on 9th (CDH) with presumably the same individuals at Druridge Pools on 18th (STE).

**Harris's Hawk** *Parabuteo unicinctus*

One seen over a hide at Swallow Pond on 30th (JPD/ AS).

**Eurasian Eagle Owl** *Bubo bubo*

The individual seen last winter was again in gardens at Burham Avenue, Walker, Newcastle all month (SPP).

**Alexandrine Parakeet** *Psittacula eupatria*

The long-staying individual was seen again at Hauxley on 5th (HRS).

## LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

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Bamburgh Ringing Station, Berwick Wildlife Group, Hauxley Ringing Station, Natural History Society of Northumbria, Seaton Sluice Watch Tower

## Apologies for any accidental omissions

## BULLETIN COMPILATION AND PRODUCTION

This bulletin was compiled by Graeme Bowman (Mute Swan to Ruddy Duck), Lindsay McDougall (Red Grouse to Black-necked Grebe), Trevor Blake (Honey-buzzard to Crane), Steve Holliday (Avocet to Godwit), Ian Forsyth (Turnstone to Skua), Eddie Crabtree (Puffin to Great Black-backed Gull), Tim Dean (Escapes, Hybrids and Unknown Origin, List of Contributors, Highlights), Peter Fletcher (Feral Pigeon to Red-rumped Swallow), Mike Richardson (Cetti's Warbler to Pied Flycatcher), Alan Jack (Dunnock to Corn Bunting), Dan Turner (WeBS Coastal Counts) and Steve Holliday (WeBS Inland Counts).

Thanks to David Sanders of NNBC for providing data.

Proof reading was by Mike Smith.

Edited by Steve Barrett [NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com](mailto:NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com)

Mail distribution by Paul Stewart.

## RECORD SUBMISSION

Please email [ntbcorg@gmail.com](mailto:ntbcorg@gmail.com) for a copy of the standard spreadsheet and other details.

Location names and grid references: The use of standard location names and the include grid references as this greatly increases the value of records in subsequent analyses. A 1km square grid reference is the ideal e.g. NY8067 for Grindon Lough, but 2km square references (tetrads) are also acceptable e.g. NY86D in this case. A list of localities and their tetrad grid references (tetrad/Locality List) can be downloaded from the 'Resources & Downloads' section of the Club website at <http://www.ntbc.org.uk> – the use of these names, wherever possible, would be highly appreciated.

Could club members ensure they submit records direct to NTBC rather than just Birdtrack. There may be an assumption by some members this happens automatically. We do not want to miss records.

## PHOTOGRAPHS AND ILLUSTRATIONS

Please keep submitting your articles, photographs, sketches and illustrations for the bulletin. Thanks again to those who have supplied the excellent photographs. Please send to Steve Barrett at [NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com](mailto:NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com)

It is preferable if you re-size your photos before sending and a suggested size is 640 x 480 pixels. Please ensure you include the following information with your submissions: name, species, date taken, locality.

Photographs will not be used elsewhere without the photographer's permission.

## MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual membership costs £10 for a junior, £30 for an individual, and £32 for a family.

For membership enquiries please contact [ntbc@jobentley.plus.com](mailto:ntbc@jobentley.plus.com)

Subscriptions were due from 1st October. Members are asked to check that standing orders have been paid.

## NTBC WEB SITE

The Club website is an excellent resource for all interested in birds in the north-east. There are numerous interesting sections, including a photograph gallery, site information and trip reports together with extensive reference information for birding in our area. Please submit any new content for the website to the main club email address.

## NTBC SIGHTINGS PAGE

The Sightings Page contains current reports by members. Access is from the NTBC website and an email notification is available for new postings.

Members need to submit a request to be added to the website, specifying the email address they wish to post from before they can submit sightings to [ntbcorg@gmail.com](mailto:ntbcorg@gmail.com)



**BIRDS IN NORTHUMBRIA 2013**

Mike Richardson's 2013 BIN will be published in February. It is, as usual, an excellent production.

Please pick up your free copy (paid up members only) at the Indoor Meeting on 12th February. If you can deliver additional copies to members that will save the Club postage.

**SEATON SLUICE WATCH TOWER**

Repairs have recently been made to the SSWT and a new lock has been fitted. This means that new keys are required for access. Keys can be collected at indoor meetings or email [ntbcorg@gmail.com](mailto:ntbcorg@gmail.com)

Keys are available for £5 for new holders and existing key-holders can exchange keys for £4.

**INTERNATIONAL SWAN CENSUS**

**17-18 January 2015**

The above census takes place during the usual WeBS weekend dates and hopefully many wild swans (Whoopers and Bewick's!) will get picked up by the county WeBS counters. There is also a need to note ages of the birds and the habitat in which they are found. If any Club member is aware of **any** Whoopers currently residing in the county, I'd be very grateful for them getting in contact with me.

Many thanks.

**Steve Holliday, Local Organiser for Northumberland.**

[steveholliday@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:steveholliday@hotmail.co.uk)

**tel 01670 731963.**

COASTAL WEBS COUNTS: NORTHUMBERLAND

SEPTEMBER 2014

Site	Berwick North Shore (including Little Beach)	Berwick Little Beach	Tweed Estuary	Thorncliffe	Optical - Cockburn	Lindisfarne NNR (including Budle Bay)	Budle Pt - Seahouses	Seahouses - Beadnell	Beadnell - Howick	Howick - Boulmer	Boulmer - Alnmouth	Aln Estuary	Amble - Chevington	Crosswell - Crosswell	Newbiggin - Newbiggin	Newbiggin - Cambois	Blyth Estuary - Seaton	Blyth Sluice	St Mary's Island	Whitley Bay - Tyneworth	East Howdon - Fish Quay	Redheugh - Scotswood Bridge, (north bank)	Scotswood - Newburn Bridge, (north bank)
Counter	MHu	MHu	MHu	TB	MHu	ACra	ACra	MIC	KR	JAR	AB	TAC	TW	MSK	MGA	PC	LJM	KVB	SP	MK	DMT	DMT	PF
Date	2	2	5	14	3	7	7	2	7	14	8	29	7	10	6	12	8	22	20	7	27	30	21
Red-throated Diver	12																						
Little Grebe	2			2																			
Shearwater	2																						
Shearwater Crested Grebe																							
Shearwater	455	27	53	9	35	50		11	5	7	14	7	36			11	101	2	28	2	31	15	8
Shearwater	70	20			16			17	1	7	4							3	3	2			
Grey Heron	88	7	34	4	1	12	1	1	1	3	8	7	3						2		2		
Mute Swan	189	3	112	23	2	40	3					76											3
Canada Goose	124		48																				
Light-bellied Brent Goose	340					340																	
Shelduck	227	1				205	75			8	12	9					4						
Wigeon	1,247					1214	270			16	3	12	4				2		15				
Teal	229					81													24				
Mallard	397		15	99	1	153	150			6		75						25	24		3	52	36
Pintail	1					1													7				16
Tufted Duck	6																						
Eider	977	22	6	1	74	372		142	62	17	50	51	9	89	7	32	11	16	10	1	6		
Common Scoter	371					250	21						100										
Goldeneye	1					1																	
Red-breasted Merganser	10					10																	
Gosander	489	2	384	28	56	9						1											
Moonhen	17			2		3						4							7		1		
Coot	7					5													2				
Oystercatcher	3,019	121	4	20		1497	250	47	253	202	72	130	125	85		112	19	41	35	65	99	14	
Ringed Plover	425	18				72	53	45	2	8				72		49	76	4	23				
Golden Plover	3,834					1200		11	238	250	285					819		2	1000			29	
Grey Plover	481					452		1			8												
Lawing	1,536		34	165	296	27			8	225									154			350	52
Knot	1,570	2	2						4					4	2				5				
Sanderling	777					530							87		48			30	82				
Culw Sandpiper	4									1		3											
Purple Sandpiper	45																						
Dunlin	731	14	14					9		7	5	10	26		32		47		22				
Ruff	10					8						1	1										
Spoon	17					7						8							1				
Black-tailed Godwit	3																						
Black-tailed Godwit	2,182					2170		6				13			2		3		1				
Wintnail	10					7		1															
Culw	1,883	26	46			14	600	27	5	360	63	275	47		65	2	67		56		3	1	5
Spotted Redshank	2,237	19	2	224	11	5	975	270	13	67	30	179	52	135	17		32	21	71	67	9	5	84
Redshank	11	1	2									5					1						1
Green Sandpiper	2					1																	
Common Sandpiper	1																						
Turnstone	418	4	4			11	35	6	70	7	88	13	1		9			17	75	40	3		
Black-headed Gull	4,703	34	576	549	82	1242	200	163	83	430		175	261				305		216	190	92	229	66
Common Gull	208					137	21	12	2			12	12										
Lesser Black-backed Gull	42					12		10									6					7	
Herring Gull	3,769	36	320	47	25	1125	650	68	1110	55		35	96				196		71	473	3	108	1
Great Black-backed Gull	273	6	15	1	3	8		22	42	22		2	6				39		10	81	1	14	1
Kittiwake	188		170														18						
Mediterranean Gull	6																						
Sandwich Tern	349	5	10			64	35	118	10	86			1	3						1			
Common Tern	50							46				5											
Arctic Tern	111	16	3			16	21		1														
Little Tern	6					5				1													
Kingfisher	2								1														1
ADDITIONAL SPECIES																							
Little Egret	9		2	2		4	1					1											
Water Rail	1																						
Greylag Goose (domestic)	1																						
GREYLAGS - WILDFOWL	5,262	81	0	653	168	436	2,522	499	160	74	46	77	100	206	230	0	7	43	134	18	117	5	37
- WADERS	18,967	205	40	330	177	484	9,672	568	66	490	533	1,196	569	790	374	0	1,171	42	407	116	1,555	209	32
- GULLS & TERNS	9,705	97	0	1,109	738	212	2,480	650	218	269	1,265	601	0	224	381	0	3	0	564	0	297	745	96

COASTAL WEBS COUNTS: NORTHUMBERLAND

October 2014

Site	Berwick North Shore (including Little Beach)		Berwick Little Beach		Tweed Estuary		Tweed: A1 By-Pass to Homcliffe		Spittal - Cockaburn		Lindisfarne NMR (including Budle Bay)		Budle Pt - Seahouses		Seahouses - Beadnell		Beadnell - Howick		Boulmer - Alnmouth		Aln Estuary		Coquet Estuary		Amble - Chevington		Cresswell - Newbiggin		Newbiggin - Cambois		Byth Estuary - Seaton		St Mary's Island		The North Pier - Fish Quay		East Howdon, (north bank only)		Redheugh - (north bank)		Scotswood - (north bank)	
	MHu	MHu	MHu	TB	MHu	ACra	ACra	ACra	RP	MLC	KR	AB	TAC	RP	TW	MGA	RC	LIM	KVB	SP	DMT	DMT	PF	PF	PF	PF	PF	PF	PF	PF	PF	PF	PF	PF	PF	PF	PF	PF	PF	PF		
TOTAL	8	8	10	22	13	12	12	12	14	5	2	2	6	14	5	9	26	13	14	8	17	22	31	31	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
Date	18																																									
Red-breasted Diver	18																																									
Little Grebe	3																																									
Great Crested Grebe	3																																									
Stewartian Grebe	385		34	27	6	54																																				
Shag	20	14																																								
Grey Heron	76	4	24	10	3	9																																				
Mute Swan	245	1	144	20		62																																				
Whooper Swan	17																																									
Pink-footed Goose	1,580																																									
Greylag Goose	66																																									
Canada Goose	305																																									
Barnacle Goose	1,988		39																																							
Dark-bellied Brent Goose	433																																									
Light-bellied Brent Goose	1,707																																									
Shelduck	364																																									
Widgeon	14,370																																									
Goosander	1																																									
Teal	503	8	8	40	2	76	20	2	7	1	85	84	2																													
Mallard	517	8	97	76	48	133	90	4	10	65	58																															
Pintail	13																																									
Tufted Duck	18																																									
Eider	726	5	8																																							
Common Scoter	521																																									
Goldeneye	1																																									
Red-breasted Merganser	21																																									
Gosander	74		6	59																																						
Moorhen	24																																									
Coot	9																																									
Oystercatcher	1,511	58	3	26																																						
Ringed Plover	416	26	26																																							
Golden Plover	5,202																																									
Grey Plover	353	14																																								
Lapwing	3,245		410	9	82	1673	210																																			
Knot	1,556																																									
Sanderling	327	22	4																																							
Curlew Sandpiper	2																																									
Purple Sandpiper	20	6																																								
Dunlin	3,105	82	45	2	2614																																					
Ruff	1		1																																							
Slope	15																																									
Woodcock	1			1																																						
Black-tailed Godwit	16		2																																							
Bar-tailed Godwit	551																																									
Whimbrel	2																																									
Curlew	1,705	18	104	12	27	1184	40	26	60	50	75	22	25	1	2	49	1	45																								
Spotted Redshank	1																																									
Redshank	2,701	146	32	196	14	12	1235	170	5	46	62	168	150	177	74	18	9	173	42	137	25	2	6	4																		
Greenshank	2		1																																							
Common Sandpiper	7																																									
Turstone	641	64	14	12																																						
Little Gull	30																																									
Black-headed Gull	2,940	116	7	365	114	184	300	205	430		350																															
Common Gull	427	8	26	30	17	217	100	1	105		15																															
Lesser Black-backed Gull	54		1																																							
Herring Gull	4,405	38	2	840	10	55	1440	450	50	595		35																														
Great Black-backed Gull	355	5	8	2	3	15	70	42	45																																	
Kittiwake	6																																									
Mediterranean Gull	2																																									
Sandwich Tern	3																																									
Common Tern	1																																									
Arctic Tern	2																																									
Knightsfisher	3			1																																						





## INLAND WeBS COUNTS: NORTHUMBERLAND

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| Site | Region 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 2 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 3 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 4 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 5 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 6 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 7 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 8 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 9 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 10 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 11 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 12 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 13 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 14 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 15 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 16 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 17 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 18 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 19 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 20 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 21 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 22 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 23 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 24 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 25 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 26 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 27 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 28 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 29 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 30 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 31 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 32 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 33 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 34 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 35 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 36 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 37 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 38 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 39 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 40 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 41 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 42 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 43 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 44 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 45 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 46 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 47 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 48 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 49 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 50 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 51 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 52 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 53 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 54 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 55 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 56 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 57 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 58 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 59 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 60 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 61 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 62 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 63 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 64 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 65 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 66 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 67 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 68 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 69 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 70 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 71 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 72 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 73 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 74 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 75 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 76 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 77 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 78 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 79 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 80 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 81 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 82 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 83 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 84 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 85 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 86 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 87 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 88 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 89 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 90 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 91 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 92 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 93 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 94 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 95 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 96 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 97 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 98 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 99 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 100 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 101 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 102 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 103 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 104 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 105 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 106 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 107 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 108 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 109 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 110 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 111 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 112 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 113 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 114 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 115 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 116 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 117 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 118 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 119 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 120 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 121 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 122 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 123 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 124 |
 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 125 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 126 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 127 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 128 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 129 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 130 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 131 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 132 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 133 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 134 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 135 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 136 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 137 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 138 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 139 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 140 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 141 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 142 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 143 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 144 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 145 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 146 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 147 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 148 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 149 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 150 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 151 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 152 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 153 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 154 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 155 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 156 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 157 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 158 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 159 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 160 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 161 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 162 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 163 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 164 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 165 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 166 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 167 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 168 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 169 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 170 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 171 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 172 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 173 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 174 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 175 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 176 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 177 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 178 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 179 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 180 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 181 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 182 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 183 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 184 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 185 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 186 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 187 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 188 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 189 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 190 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 191 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 192 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 193 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 194 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 195 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 196 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 197 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 198 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 199 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 200 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 201 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 202 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 203 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 204 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 205 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 206 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 207 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 208 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 209 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 210 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 211 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 212 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 213 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 214 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 215 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 216 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 217 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 218 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 219 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 220 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 221 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 222 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 223 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 224 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 225 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 226 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 227 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 228 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 229 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 230 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 231 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 232 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 233 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 234 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 235 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 236 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 237 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 238 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 239 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 240 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 241 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 242 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 243 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 244 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 245 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region
246 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 247 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 248 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 249 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 250 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 251 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 252 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 253 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 254 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 255 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 256 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 257 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 258 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 259 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 260 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 261 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 262 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 263 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 264 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 265 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 266 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 267 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 268 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 269 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 270 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 271 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 272 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 273 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 274 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 275 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 276 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 277 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 278 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 279 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 280 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 281 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 282 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 283 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 284 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 285 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 286 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 287 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 288 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 289 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 290 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 291 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 292 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 293 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 294 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 295 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 296 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 297 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 298 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 299 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 300 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 301 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 302 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 303 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 304 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 305 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 306 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 307 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 308 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 309 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 310 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 311 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 312 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 313 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 314 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 315 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 316 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 317 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 318 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 319 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 320 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 321 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 322 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 323 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 324 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 325 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 326 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 327 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 328 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 329 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 330 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 331 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 332 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 333 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 334 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 335 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 336 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 337 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 338 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 339 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 340 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 341 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 342 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 343 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 344 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 345 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 346 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 347 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 348 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 349 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 350 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 351 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 352 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 353 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 354 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 355 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 356 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 357 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 358 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 359 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 360 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 361 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 362 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 363 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 364 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 365 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 366 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 367 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
Region 368 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 369 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 370 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 371 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 372 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 373 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 374 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 375 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 376 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 377 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 378 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 379 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 380 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 381 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 382 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 383 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 384 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 385 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 386 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 387 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 388 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 389 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 390 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 391 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 392 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 393 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 394 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 395 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 396 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 397 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 398 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 399 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 400 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 401 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 402 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 403 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 404 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 405 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 406 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 407 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 408 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 409 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 410 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 411 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 412 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 413 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 414 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 415 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 416 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 417 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 418 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 419 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 420 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 421 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 422 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 423 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 424 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 425 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 426 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 427 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Region 428 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 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**NOTE - special arrangements have been made for access to Longhirst Flash where there is no general access due to opencast coal mining work until approx end 2015.**

# Northumberland and Tyneside Bird Club

Registered Charity No. 517641

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**Bulletin 2014 No 12**

**MONTHLY SUMMARY – DECEMBER**

**30th January 2015**



## CONTENTS

WeBS inland

St Mary's Wetland Conservation

## CLASSIFIED LIST HIGHLIGHTS

Bewick's Swan

Greenland White-fronted Goose

Bittern

Black-necked Grebe

Rough-legged Buzzard

Black-tailed Godwit

Puffin

Little Auk

Yellow-legged Gull

Iceland Gull

Glaucous Gull

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker

Great Grey Shrike

Firecrest

Black Redstart

Mealy Redpoll

Lapland Bunting

Single at Derwent Reservoir on 1st.

Up to three at Warkworth lane from 20th.

One or two at East Chevington, Gosforth Park and Swallow Pond.

Singles at QEII CP, St Mary's and Seahouses harbour.

Two still present in Harthope Valley.

Up to five on Holy Island.

Unusually up to nine off Stag Rocks during month.

Still present offshore with one in Seahouses Harbour on 28th.

First and second-winter at Newburn on 18th.

A juvenile and second-winter in North Shields Fish Quay area.

First and second-winter at Blyth Harbour and NSFQ.

One at Corbridge on 13th. A welcome sighting of the species.

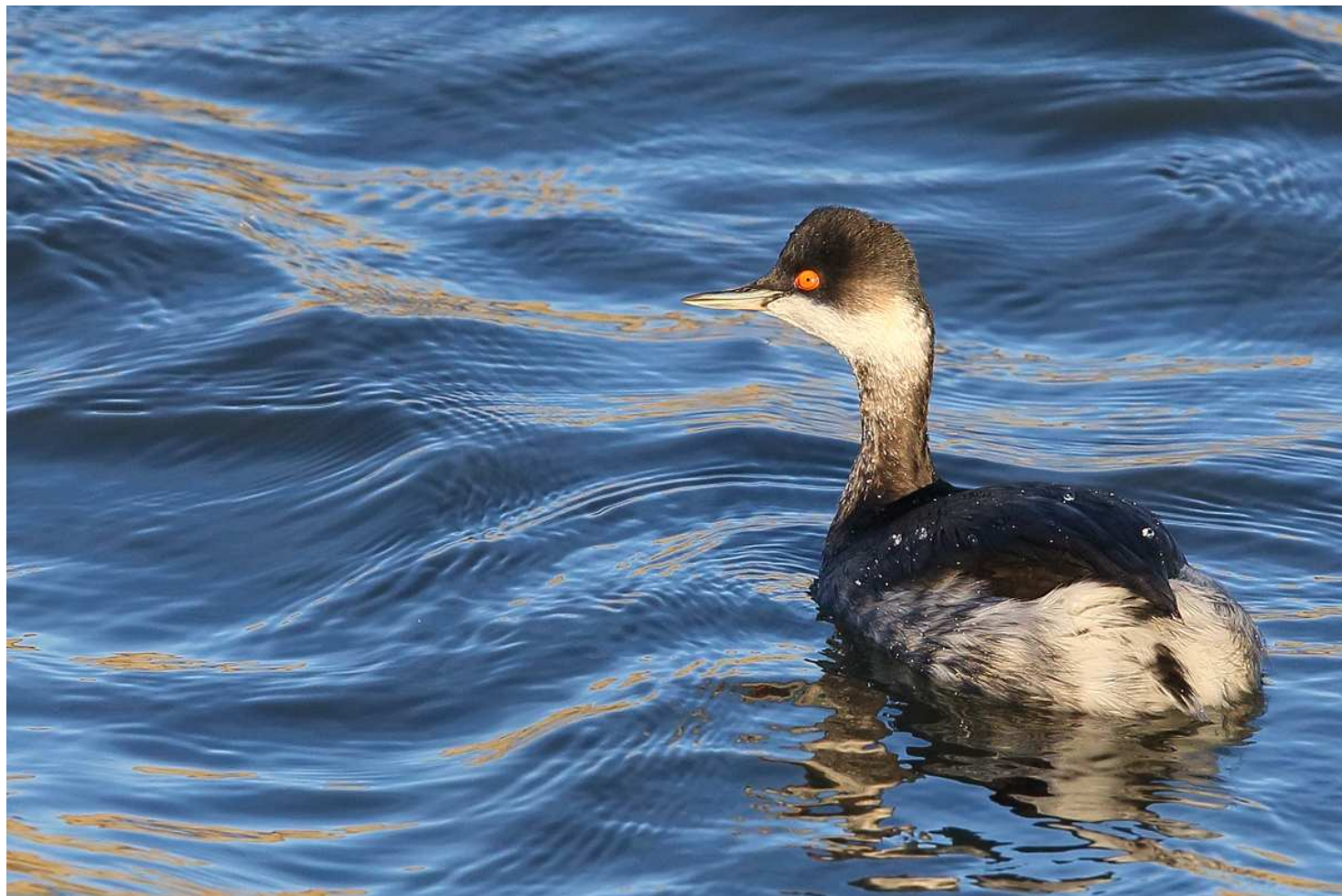
A popular bird at West Hartford from 14th.

One at North Seaton on 19th.

Up to three still at Newbiggin.

One at Swallow Pond on 5th.

Four on Straight Lonnen on Holy Island on 7th.



Seahouses harbour  
A popular Black-necked Grebe  
by Colin Bradshaw



## INDOOR MEETINGS

NTBC indoor meetings are held at Northern Rugby Club, McCracken Park, Great North Road, Newcastle, NE3 2DT starting at 7.00pm and generally finish between 9.00pm-9.30pm.

The next meetings of the 2014-2015 season are;

12th February 2015

**RSPB Saltholme – the inside gen** by Dave Braithwaite, RSPB Senior Reserve Manager

- Having been at RSPB Saltholme since the inception and then to go on to establish the reserve as one of the premier reserves in the RSPB family, Dave has a wealth of knowledge and experience in conserving birds and habitats and enabling people to enjoy them. Tonight Dave will share some of the milestones of his work.

## CLASSIFIED LIST

The following account consists of unchecked reports. The species/subspecies marked \* require descriptions.

A complete list of all sightings that need notes is included in the NTBC website [www.ntbc.org.uk](http://www.ntbc.org.uk) under the County Records Committee section and in Birds in Northumbria 2012 page 236.

The Inland and Coastal Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) tables are at the rear of the bulletin. These contain counts additional to those in the Classified List.

### Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

Peak counts involved 99 at QEII CP Lake on 7th (CDH), 39 at Big Waters on 14th (GB), 33 at Killingworth Lake on 27th (CDB), 29 in a rape field between Amble-Warkworth on 6th (JMA), 26 at the Tweed Estuary, and 14 at East Chevington. Five to eight were also at Hauxley Reserve, Low Newton and Newcastle Leazes Park, and Whittle Dene Reservoirs and one to four at 11 further, mainly lowland, sites.

### Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus*

A single adult was found amongst 18 Whooper Swans at Derwent Reservoir on 1st (IFo).

### Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

Southward movement involved a flock of 16 at Berwick golf course on 16th (BWG), four at East Ord on 8th (MHu) and two S at the Blyth Estuary on 8th (TRC). A 'herd' in the Amble Braid area peaked at 46 (seven juveniles) on 9th (TRC), with nine to 44 (up to eight juveniles) between 5th-31st (IRD/IF/JMA *et al.*). Other discrete flocks involved 40 (about 17 juvs.) at Low Newton on 6th (TD), 21-24 (seven to nine juvs.) at Warkworth Lane (GB/TRC/ASJ), 18 (four juvs.) at Derwent Reservoir on 1st (IFo), 14 at Fenham Flats on 16th (AA/MH), and seven to nine (four to five juvs.) at West Ord (MHu) and Whittle Dene Reservoirs (PRM). One to four were also noted at Airy Holm and Catcleugh Reservoirs, Craggside, Cresswell Pond and East Chevington. An adult at Warkworth Lane on 27th bore a Darvic ring, 'BX7'(ASJ).

### Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

80 flew E at Widdrington Moor Lake on 6th (MSH), 37 W at North Shields on 2nd (MSH), and 11 S at Bellingham. About 3,000 were in Druridge Bay on 20th (ASJ), while 1,350-2,000 were noted at Cresswell Pond on several dates (IRD/IJ/PRM). Other notable flocks included 900 at Holywell Pond on 5th (JPD/AWS), 800 at Doddington on 7th (TRD/JD), 700 at Maiden's Hall Lake (West Chevington) on 15th (MSH), 480-520 in the *Beehive* Flash-Old Hartley area all month (MNC/CGK/GPK/RJP *et al.*), and about 460 at Cheswick (MHu). One to ten were at Gosforth Park NR, Haughton Strother GP and Whittle Dene Reservoirs, while one wandered around Sandy Bay (Newbiggin) caravan park on 1st (GB).

### White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

Three Greenland *flavirostris* race birds were at Warkworth Lane on 20th (ASJ), with two (adult and first-winter) noted on 23rd (GB/LAR) and 31st (TRC). An un-raced adult flew over Holywell Pond, with Greylag Geese, on 31st (GB/LAR).

### Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

84 flew S at Cocklawburn on 12th (MHu), and 30 W at Cramlington on 27th (DM). Peak counts were modest, with 253 at Big Waters on 14th (GB), about 200 at Harper's Heugh, near Budle Bay on 27th (GB/AIB/DM/LAR), 178 at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 5th (PRM), 162 at Low Newton on 30th (IJ), and 104-142 at Cocklawburn Pond (MHu), Haughton Strother GP (MR) and near East Holywell (MSH). Counts of 55-70 came from Prestwick Carr and Woodhorn, and 21-43 were at Cresswell Pond, Gosforth Park NR, Grindon Lough and West Chevington, and one to 11 at Arcot and Swallow Ponds.

### Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

Grindon Lough held a peak of about 375 on 27th (PRM), 148 were at Derwent Reservoir on 19th (IFo), 130 at Gosforth Park NR (NHSN), 38-42 at Big Waters, QEII CP Lake and West Ord. Nine to 15 were also at Cresswell Pond, Killingworth Lake and Newcastle Leazes Park. One to three were also at Bothal Pond, Hauxley Reserve and Longhirst Flash.

### Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

Numbers in the Harper's Haugh-Budle Bay area peaked at 600 on 28th (TRD), with 300-550 on several dates between 16th-27th (AA/MH/GB *et al.*). Nine were at New Water Haugh (River Tweed) on 14th (MHu) and one at Cresswell.

### Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*

Pale-bellied *hrota* race birds involved 250 near Holy Island causeway on 16th when 100 were near Holy Island Castle (JMA), and ten were at Beal on 20th (JMA).

**Shelduck** *Tadorna tadorna*

Five flew N at Seaton Sluice on 27th-28th (SSWT), and one moved N at Tynemouth on the latter date (CB). The only counts came from Howdon, with 12-13 between 14th-29th (CB), and Castle Island, with four to five on 7th and 30th (GB/DM).

**Wigeon** *Anas penelope*

A late movement on 2nd involved 91 N at Seaton Sluice (SSWT) and 52 N at St Mary's (JPD/MPF/AWS). Peak concentrations were 976 at Cresswell Pond on 10th (PRM), 280 at Grindon Lough on 15th (PRM), 218 at Derwent Reservoir on 6th (IFo), and 120-169 at Big Waters (IJ), Bothal Pond (TD), Newham Marsh (JMA), Whittle Dene Reservoirs (SR) and Widdrington Moor Lake (MSH). Counts of 50-75 came from the Coquet Estuary, Druridge Pools, Gosforth Park NR, Hauxley Reserve and Low Newton. Two to 17 were at nine further lowland sites.

**Gadwall** *Anas strepera*

Swallow Pond attracted record numbers for the site, peaking at 56 on 19th (JPD/SPP/AWS). Other peak counts were 37 at Caistron on 6th (JD), 23 at Big Waters on 14th (GB), 20 at Arcot Pond on 21st (LJM), 18-19 at East Chevington (PRM) and St Mary's (IJ), and ten to 14 at Arcot Pond, Castle Island and QEII CP Lake. Six to nine were at Bothal Pond, Low Newton, Marden Quarry and St Mary's Wetland, and one to four at Gosforth Park NR, Holywell Pond, Howdon and Whittle Dene Reservoirs. Estuarine habitat was utilised, with 14 at the Blyth Estuary on 30th (STH/IFo) and 12 at the Wansbeck Estuary on 31st (GB).

**Teal** *Anas crecca*

A strong movement occurred on 2nd when 786 moved N and 18 S at Seaton Sluice (a record day count for the site; SSWT) and 451 N at St Mary's (JPD/MPF/AWS), while seven flew N at Tynemouth on 28th (CB). The largest gatherings were 420 at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 14th (SR), 330 at Grindon Lough on 1st (PRM), 278 at Derwent Reservoir on 26th (IFo), 200-233 at Cresswell Pond (TRC), Holy Island 'rocket field' (JMA), Howdon (CB), and 100-152 at Big Waters, Bothal Pond, Castle Island, Holy Island Lough and Low Newton. Counts of 60-94 came from Arcot and Swallow Ponds, Druridge Pools, East Chevington, Holystone, St Mary's Wetland and Whittle Dene Reservoirs, and 18-45 were at Airy Holm Reservoir, the Blyth Estuary, Gosforth Park NR, Haughton Strother GP, Linton Ponds, Newburn and West Ord.

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*

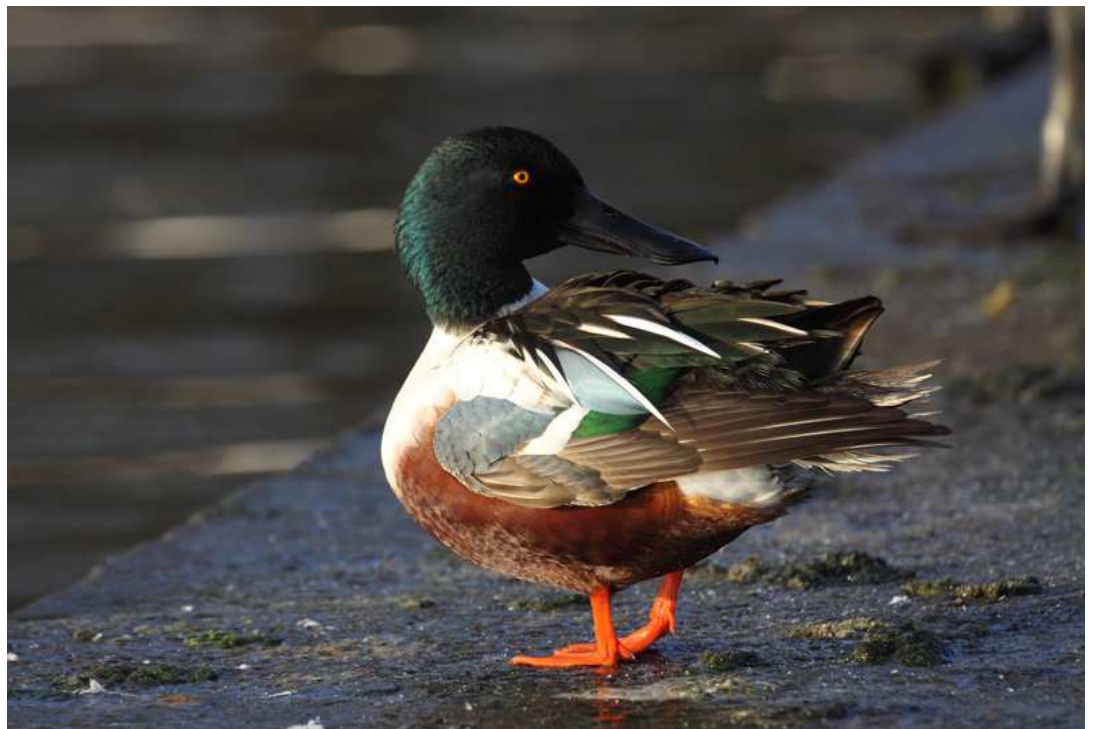
Five flew S at St Mary's on 2nd (JPD/MPF/AWS). Peak counts were 209 at Derwent Reservoir on 26th (IFo), 168 at the Tweed Estuary on 5th (MHu), 163 at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 5th (PRM), 101-135 at Airy Holm Reservoir (IFo), Big Waters (GB), Cresswell Pond (PCF), Derwent Reservoir (JMA) and Widdrington Moor Lake (JL), and 50-90 at Budle Bay, Cocklawburn Pond, East Chevington, Grindon Lough, Haughton Strother GP, Killingworth Lake, Marden Quarry and Warkworth. Counts of 20-49 came from Berwick, Bothal, Holywell and Linton Ponds, Castle Island, Farnley Haughs, Hauxley Reserve, Holy Island Lough, Low Newton, Newburn-Bywell (River Tyne), Newcastle Leazes Park, St Mary's, Tynemouth boating lake and Wark. Smaller numbers were at a further 15 widespread sites.

**Pintail** *Anas acuta*

Three flew N at Seaton Sluice on 2nd (SSWT). At Fenham Flats, Lindisfarne NNR, 119 were counted on 16th (MH/AA) and about ten were noted there on 27th (GB/AIB/DM/LAR).

**Shoveler** *Anas clypeata*

Highest counts were 34 at Swallow Pond on 30th (JPD/AWS), 23 at Killingworth Lake on 29th (GB), 16 at Holy Island Lough on 16th (JMA), six to nine at Bothal (TF/JFa) and Linton Ponds (CDH), and three at Arcot Pond (DM). One to two were also at Druridge Pools, Gosforth Park NR, Longhirst Flash, Marden Quarry and Whittle Dene Reservoirs. More unusual was a drake, with 19 Mallards, on the River Tyne at Warden on 27th (TW).



A drake Shoveler enjoys the winter sun at Killingworth Lake  
by Chris Barlow

**Pochard** *Aythya ferina*

Killingworth Lake held a peak of 30 on 30th (MSH), 29 were at Holywell Pond on 15th (GPK), seven at Ladyburn Lake on 14th (IRD), and one to two at Bothal and Swallow Ponds, and QEII CP Lake.

**Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula*

Killingworth Lake again proved attractive, holding a peak of 164 on 29th (GB), and 45-137 on various other dates (CDB/MSH/IJ/LJM). Elsewhere, peak counts were 83 at East Chevington on 10th (PRM), 53 at QEII CP Lake on 7th (CDH), and 36 at Big Waters on 14th (GB). Counts of 12-17 came from Bothal, Holywell, Swallow and West Allotment Ponds, and Haughton Strother GP, while one to eight were at 16 further sites.

**Eider** *Somateria mollissima*

Two flew N and two S at St Mary's on 2nd (JPD/MPF/AWS) and one S at Whitley Bay on 13th (IJ). Berwick North Shore held 132 on 3rd (MHu), 36 were at Blyth South Harbour on 7th (DM), 23-26 at Cocklawburn and Seahouses harbour, and 17-20 at Amble Harbour and Low Newton. One to five were at St Mary's, the Tweed Estuary and Whitley Bay.

**Long-tailed Duck** *Clangula hyemalis*

Five flew N at Seaton Sluice on 8th (SRB). A group of 36 were calling and displaying at the Heugh (Holy Island) on 6th (IK), 25 were counted along Ross Back Sands on 28th (JL), and a peak of 24 at Stag Rocks on 16th (MH/AA). The long-staying drake was noted at Derwent Reservoir on 1st (IFo).

**Common Scoter** *Melanitta nigra*

Light coastal movement involved 26 N at Tynemouth on 28th (CB), 25 S at Alnmouth on 29th (AB/LB), and ten to 11 N at St Mary's on 2nd (JPD/MSH *et al.*). Few were noted offshore, with 100 off Cambois on 1st (GB), 50 at Blyth Bay on 23rd (STH/IFo), 50 at Stag Rocks on 27th (GB), 42 at Cocklawburn (MHu), and 20 at Ross Back Sands and Stag Rocks. Two were at Seaton Sluice and Whitley Bay.

**Velvet Scoter** *Melanitta fusca*

Four flew N off East Chevington on 9th (AA/MH), and three N at Seaton Sluice on 2nd (SSWT).

**Goldeneye** *Bucephala clangula*

Nine flew N at St Mary's on 2nd (JPD/MPF/AWS). The Tweed Estuary attracted 56 on 5th (MHu), 52 were at East Chevington on 10th (PRM), 40 at Castle Island on 7th (DM), ten to 16 at Big Waters (GB), Bolam Lake (CDB), Branton GP (JD), Killingworth Lake (MSH), Newburn (AJN), QEII CP Lake (CDH), Warkworth (JMA), West Ord (MHu) and Whitley Bay (IJ). Five to nine were at Berwick North Shore, Caistron, Grindon Lough and Low Newton, and one to three at 13 further widespread sites.



A Goldeneye at Tynemouth Boating Lake by Colin Bradshaw



**Red-breasted Merganser** *Mergus serrator*

Six pairs displayed at Budle Bay on 16th (AA/MH) and four pairs displayed at East Chevington on 9th (AA/MH). Eight birds were at Cresswell on 26th (IJ), and seven at the Blyth Estuary (TRC) and Druridge Bay CP (MSH). One to two were at Berwick, Budle Bay, Low Newton, Seahouses Harbour and the Wansbeck Estuary. A drake was feeding on the River Wansbeck at Stakeford on 30th (GB).

**Goosander** *Mergus merganser*

Largest gatherings were 18 (seven drakes) on the River Tyne between Newburn-Bywell on 6th (MH), 12 at Branton GP on 17th and 25th (TRD/JD), ten at Killingworth Lake on 23rd (GB), ten at the Tweed Estuary on 5th (MHu), and three to four at Airy Holm and Derwent Reservoirs, Corbridge, Marden Quarry. One to two were also at Farnley Haughs, Morpeth, QEII CP Lake, Rothbury, Swallow Pond, the Wansbeck Estuary and Wark.

**Red-legged Partridge** *Alectoris rufa*

The only record received was of a single heard calling at Linhope (Upper Coquetdale) on 2nd (TRD/JD).

**Red Grouse** *Lagopus lagopus*

In the Harthope Valley 154 were in the Hawsen Burn area on 2nd (RD/IF). On 17th 45 were present at Burntridge Moor (JMA). One to four were noted at Belford Moor, Earle (Wooler), Linhope Spout, Quarry House Moor (Bewick) and Thirwall Common.

**Black Grouse** *Tetrao tetrix*

On 5th seven were at the traditional site at Sinderhope (Allendale) (AA). Two males were feeding on hawthorn berries at Featherstone Common on 15th (MH).

**Grey Partridge** *Perdix perdix*

The peak counts were 16 at Wallbanks on 28th (CDB), 14 in two coveys at Beaconhill (Cramlington) on 25th (STH), 13 in two coveys in Druridge Bay on 16th (TRC), 11 at Tyne Riverside CP (Newburn), feeding in winter wheat on 1st (MH) and 11 again at Prestwick Carr on 26th (PCF) and ten on Burntridge Moor on 17th (JMA). Nine were at Sea House (Cocklawburn) on 4th and near East Holywell on 30th, eight at Arcot Pond on 2nd and seven at Warkworth Lane (Ellington) on 23rd. Three to five were at the Blyth Estuary, Boulmer and Budle Bay.

**Pheasant** *Phasianus colchicus*

Counts of up to 28 were noted during the month at Hartley West Farm (Holywell Dene). Three were seen at Arcot Pond, Eachwick and Low Newton.

**Red-throated Diver** *Gavia stellata*

At St Mary's Island six flew N and 13 S in four hours 45 minutes on 2nd (JPD/MPF/AWS) and at Seaton Sluice four flew N and eight S on 2nd and ten flew N and two S on 5th (SSWT). One flew N at Tynemouth on 28th. Counts of six came from Cocklawburn on 1st (MHu) and Low Newton on 30th (IJ). Five were at Stag Rocks on 3rd (BRS) and four at Cresswell on 26th (IJ). One to three were noted at Blyth South Harbour, Holy Island, Meadow Haven (Berwick), Newbiggin, Spittal Bay (Berwick), Tweed Estuary and Rockcliffe (Whitley Bay).

**Black-throated Northern Diver** *Gavia arctica*

Singles flew N at Seaton Sluice on 2nd (SSWT) and Tynemouth on 14th (DRW) and 24th (SPP). Two were at Meadow Haven (Berwick) on 18th (MHu) and Cresswell on 26th (IJ).

**Great Northern Diver** *Gavia immer*

Singles flew N at Seaton Sluice on 5th/ 27th (SSWT) and at Rockcliffe (Whitley Bay) on 14th (IJ).

**Fulmar** *Fulmarus glacialis*

Eight flew N on 2nd (JPD/MPF/AWS). At Seaton Sluice the peak count was 11 N in seven hours on 2nd (SSWT). Birds were noted returning to breeding cliffs with nine at Stag Rocks on 8th (TRD/JD), eight at Rockcliffe (Whitley Bay) on 26th (IJ) and seven at Coves Bay (Holy Island) on 8th (IK). Three were noted during the month at Low Newton, Old Hartley and Sandy Bay (Newbiggin).

**Gannet** *Morus bassanus*

At Seaton Sluice 27 flew N and two S during the month with a peak count of 16 N on 2nd.

**Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Peak counts were 72 at North Shields Fish Quay on 13th (SPP), 40 at Amble on 10th (IF), 36 at Blyth South Harbour on 23rd (STH/IFo), 22 at West Ord on 21st (MHu), 15 at Holy Island Harbour on 16th (JMA) and 14 in the Tweed Estuary on 5th (MHu) and Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 25th (SR). Elsewhere 12 were at Derwent Reservoir on 17th, 11 at Berwick North Shore on 3rd and Big Waters on 14th and ten on the River Tyne from Newburn-Bywell on 6th. Nine were noted at Meadow Haven (Berwick) and QEII Lake. One to five were noted at Amble Weir, Arcot Pond, Castle Island, Druridge Pools, East Chevington, Hauxley NR Prestwick Carr, Rockcliffe (Whitley Bay), Stakeford Bridge, Tweed Estuary, Tyne Green CP (Hexham) and Wark.

Three *sinensis* race birds were noted at QEII Lake on 13th and two at Ladyburn Lake on 15th (MSH) and singles at North Shields Fish Quay on 13th (SPP) and Linden Hall Lake on 25th and QEII Lake on 30th (NFO).

**Shag** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

At least 250 were at Stag Rocks on 3rd (BRS). On 18th 14 were at Meadow Haven (Berwick) (MHu). One to six were noted at Berwick North Shore, Low Newton, Seahouses Harbour and Spittal Bay. Unusually none were recorded during the month at Seaton Sluice.

**Bittern** *Botaurus stellaris*.

Two were at East Chevington on 7th (JL). At Gosforth Park NR only single birds were sighted but it was thought that two birds were present during the month ((NHSN). A single was also present at Swallow Pond from 14th-27th (JPD/MPF/AWS/SPP/GPK).



A Bittern emerges from the reed beds  
Gosforth NR  
by Mike Carr  
28th December

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*

Up to four were present along Horton Burn (Cramlington) during the month (LJM/JMa). The peak count at Lindisfarne NNR was three at Fenham Flats on 16th (AA/MH) and one was at Fenham-le-Moor on 27th. Up to two were seen in Holywell Dene during the month especially in the estuary (RJP). Singles were also noted at Coquet Estuary, Cresswell Pond, East Chevington, Tweed Estuary, Warkworth and Warkworth Gut

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*

The peak counts were 21 at Howdon on 21st/29th (CB), 18 in the Tweed Estuary on 5th (MHu), nine at Old Hartley on 1st (MSH), eight at North Blyth Staithes on 31st (GB), seven at Berwick North Shore on 3rd (MHu) and four at Marden Quarry on 14th (KWY). One to two were noted at Amble, Big Waters, Cresswell Pond, Druridge Pools, East Chevington., Hauxley NR, Linton Pond, Low Newton, Monks' House Pool, Prestwick Carr, Shiremoor, Valley Park (Cramlington) and Whittle Dene Reservoirs.

**Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

The peak counts were 11 at Cresswell Pond on 15th (IRDHRS), ten at Stakeford Bridge and seven nearby at Castle Island on 7th (DM). Five were at Hauxley NR on 13th (PCF) and four at Haughton Strother GP (Humshaugh) on 5th (MR) and throughout the month at Airy Holm Reservoir (Shotleyfield) (IFo). One to three were noted at Amble Marina and Weir, Big Waters, Blyth Estuary, Cresswell Pond, East Chevington, QEII Lake, Rothbury (where feeding on salmon spawn), Swallow Pond, River Tyne (Newburn-Bywell), Tweed Estuary, Wark, West Allotment Pond and Whittle Dene Reservoirs.

**Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps Grisegena*

Four were at Whittle Reservoirs on 14th (SR). Singles were noted at QEII Lake on 7th/18th/28th, on the sea at Tynemouth on 13th, near North Shields Fish Quay on 14th and at Derwent Reservoir from 20th-29th.

**Slavonian Grebe** *Podiceps auritus*

The peak count was seven on the sea at Ross Back Sands on 28th (JL). Six were at The Heugh (Holy Island) on 6th (IK). The maximum count at Stag Rocks was five on 3rd (BRS) and one was noted there on 27th.



**Black-necked Grebe** *Podiceps nigricollis*

A single remained throughout the month at QEII Lake (PHH *et al.*). One was just offshore at St Mary's Island on 15th (SPP) and one provided very close views at Seahouses Harbour from 28th-30th (TRD/IF).



Black-necked Grebe in Seahouses Harbour  
28th December by Tim Dean

**Red Kite** *Milvus milvus*

Three sightings involving single birds at Low Waskerley on 8th (IFo), at Chipchase Mill on 10th (MR) and at Carterway Heads on 26th (IFo).

**Hen Harrier** *Circus cyaneus*

Up to two ringtails were at a confidential site in the North throughout the month (RD/IF *et al.*) and another single ringtail was seen hunting Red-legged Partridges *Alectoris rufa* at another confidential site on 31st. A male was also seen at another confidential site on 20th.

**Goshawk** *Accipiter gentilis*

A single bird was seen in the Cheviots near Broadstruther on 3rd (JD).

**Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*

Pairs were noted at Belford Moor on 27th (GB/DM) and at Howburn Woods (Morpeth) on 31st (AT). Single birds were at 17 sites during the Month.

**Common Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*

Nine birds were seen in the Bewick/Quarry House Moor area on 31st (MH), six were at Humshaugh on 5th (MR) and at Rosebrough (Felton) on 27th (DM). At West Chevington five birds were present on 13th (ASJ) and four birds were seen at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 25th (SR). One - two birds were at over 25 sites.

**Rough-legged Buzzard** *Buteo lagopus*

On the 2nd two birds, a juvenile and the other an un-aged bird, were in the Hawsen Burn (Harthope Valley) (RD/IF).

**Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus*

Three were heard or seen at Gosforth Park NR throughout the month (NHSN) and three were at Swallow Pond on 16th (JPD) and Low Newton on 30th (IJ). Two birds were at Prestwick Carr on 1st (PCF), Cresswell Pond on 7th (TRC) and at Holywell Pond on 14th (ASJ). Single birds were either seen or heard at East Chevington on 2nd (ADMc) and one to two birds were also heard or seen at Big Waters, Branton GPs, Cramlington Valley Park, Holy Island Lough, Holywell Dene, Prestwick Carr, St Mary's Island and Wallsend Swallow Pond.



**Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*

20 birds were at Killingworth Lake on 22nd (IJ) and 17 were at Druridge Bay CP on 9th (MH/Aa), 12 were at QEII CP on 7th (CDH) and at Bothal Pond on 20th (IRD). 11 birds were at Holywell Pond on 14th (STH/PJA) and 10 were at Haughton Strother GP (Humshaugh) on 8th (MR). One – eight birds were at Arcot Pond, Big Waters, Cramlington (Horton Burn), Druridge Pools, East Chevington, Hauxley NWT, Holywell Dene, Holywell Pond, Jesmond Dene (Newcastle), Leazes Park (Newcastle), St Mary's Island, Swallow Pond, River Wansbeck (Stakeford Bridge) and Whittle Dene Reservoirs.

**Coot** *Fulica atra*

The highest counts this month included up 165 at Swallow Pond on several dates (IJ/SPP *et al.*), 106 at Big Waters and 102 at Killingworth Lake on 14th (GB/LJM) and 101 at QEII CP on 7th (CDH). Also 82 birds were at East Chevington on 10th (PRM). One to sixteen birds were also seen at Arcot Pond, Bothal Pond, Castle Island, Humshaugh (Haughton Strother GP), Holy Island Lough, Holywell Pond, Leazes Park (Newcastle), Longhirst Flash, Monks' House Pool and at St Mary's Island.

**Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus*

Berwick North Shore held a high of 93 on 3rd (MHu) and 75 were on the east shore of Holy Island on 16th (JMA). Some 50-70 were noted at Coquet Estuary, Cullercoats Bay and Stag Rocks and 22-40 were at Amble Links, Cresswell Pond, Hauxley NWT and the Tweed Estuary. Elsewhere, three to eight were seen at Low Newton, Rockcliffe (Whitley Bay) and West Ord, and a single was inland at Haughton Strother GP on 16th.

**Golden Plover** *Pluvialis apricaria*

The largest gathering by far was 2,500 over Newbiggin Ash Lagoons on 1st (GB) and 450 were counted at nearby Beacon Point on 7th (DM). Counts of 400 came from the Coquet Estuary on 6th (JMA), Holy Island Rocket Field on 16th (JMA) and Warkworth Gut on 23rd (MH/AA). St Mary's held 355 on 14th (ASJ) and 300 were in nearby fields on 31st (TRD/JD). Inland counts included 270 at Grindon Lough on 27th (PRM), 150 flying over Bothal Pond on 28th (TF/JFa) and 120 at Prestwick Carr on 6th/30th (PCF). Other coastal localities also held small flocks with 130 at Cresswell Pond on 10th (PRM), 106 at Scremerston Station on 30th (MHu), 104 flying N at Cocklawburn on 12th (MHu) and 100 at Harper's Heugh on 27th (DM). Elsewhere, 50-90 were also noted at Belford Moor, Boulmer, Derwent Reservoir and Hazlerigg (roosting in an arable field); and 14 were in fields near Fenham-le-Moor.

**Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*

Budle Bay attracted the largest report, with 30 on 28th (TRD) and in the south, Newbiggin held 11 on 1st (GB). Eight were seen at Berwick North Shore on 3rd (MHu) and one to two were at Alnmouth, Boulmer and Low Newton.

**Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus*

Some good-sized wintering groups remained in the county, the largest being 440-450 at Grindon Lough on 1st/27th respectively (PRM). A count at Cresswell Pond on 10th revealed 405 on 10th (PRM) and 400 were at Haughton Strother GP on 22nd (MR). 300 were noted at Blyth on 26th (ASJ) and 250 were counted at the Coquet Estuary on 6th (JMA), Derwent Reservoir on 17th (JMA) and Hallington Reservoir on 8th (PRM), with 210 at Holywell Pond on 15th (ASJ). Flocks of 100-168 were also noted at Beal, St Mary's, Seaton Sluice and the Tweed Estuary and 48-70 were at Big Waters, Druridge Pools, Holy Island (Rocket Field), Howdon and Prestwick Carr. Ten to 34 were also logged at Bothal Pond, Cocklawburn, East Chevington, Hauxley NWT, Monks' House Pool and Seahouses, with single figure reports made at three more sites.

**Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*

The WeBS count at Berwick North Shore totalled 66 on 3rd (MHu) and 51 were counted at both Newbiggin (GB) and St Mary's Island on 1st (TRC). Cullercoats Bay held 15 on 20th (MN) and 11 were at Cocklawburn on 1st (MHu).

**Curlew** *Numenius arquata*

The Coquet Estuary held the monthly peak of 150 on 4th and 100 were counted from Holy Island Causeway on 16th (JMA). Other groups included 84 at Cocklawburn on 23rd (MHu), 77 in a stubble field at Druridge Bay on 16th (TRC), 64 on the Tweed Estuary on 5th (MHu) and 35-52 at Berwick North Shore, Cresswell Pond, St Mary's and Whitley Bay (Foxhunters Fields). A winter wheat field at Newburn (Tyne Riverside CP) held 19 on 1st (MH) and single-figure reports came from Hauxley NWT, Howdon and Low Newton.

**Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa*

Five were on the Rocket Pool (Holy Island) on 2nd (ADM).

**Bar-tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica*

There were few reports this month, with ten in Budle Bay on 28th (TRD) the only double-figure record. Six were counted on the Blyth Estuary on 8th (TRC), five were at Boulmer on 8th (TRD/JD), four at Cocklawburn on 23rd (MHu), two at Berwick North Shore on 3rd (MHu) and a single at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 7th (DM).

**Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*

In the Berwick area 32 were at North Shore on 3rd and 23 in the R Tweed Estuary on 5th (MHu), St Mary's had a peak of 22 on 18th (ASJ) and 20 were at Boulmer on 8th (TRD/JD). The most at North Shields Fish Quay was 17 on 28th, at Cresswell Pond 12 on 10th and seven at Cullercoats on 25th. Two to three appeared at Blyth South Harbour, Howdon, Seahouses Harbour, Tynemouth and Whitley Bay.



A Bar-tailed Godwit at St. Mary's by Alan Jack

**Knot** *Calidris canutus*

About 100 were in Budle Bay on 28th (TRD), 50 were over Holy Island causeway on 16th (JMA), 30 at Warkworth Gut on 14th (IRD) and 15 on the shore between Sandy Bay-Spital at Newbiggin on 1st (GB). Two were noted at Fenham Flats on 27th and one visited Cresswell Pond on 10th.

**Ruff** *Calidris pugnax*

One at Boulmer on 8th (TRD/JD) was the sole record.

**Sanderling** *Calidris alba*

Boulmer Haven had a peak of 115 on 29th (AB/LB), the most at St Mary's was 64 on 18th (ASJ) and 54 were at Berwick, North Shore on 3rd (MHu). The only others reported were four at Cresswell on 26th and two at Newbiggin on 7th.

**Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*

The peak at Fenham Flats was of around 300 on 28th (TRD) up from 100 the previous day (DM *et al.*), 200 were at Newbiggin in the Church Point-Beacon Point area on 1st (GB) and Boulmer Haven held 140-150 on 8th (TRD/JD) and 29th (AB/LB). Also 112 were on the Battery Rocks at Tynemouth on 31st (DRW), 89 at Warkworth Gut on 14th (IRD) and 60 at Cresswell Pond on 10th (PRM). Two to three were noted at Cocklawburn and East Chevington.

**Purple Sandpiper** *Calidris maritima*

The Stag Rocks stronghold had 95 on 3rd (BRS) but only 26 on 27th (DM *et al.*). Elsewhere it was scarce: 11 at Tynemouth on 14th (DRW), eight at St Mary's on 3rd and eight at Cullercoats on 22nd, six at Newbiggin on 1st and six at Berwick on 3rd and two to three at Low Newton, Seahouses and Whitley Bay.

**Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*

A regular presence continued at Whittle Dene Reservoirs with three on 14th (SR) and singles on three other days. Singles were at Haughton Strother GP on 5th and 22nd (MR), Caistron on 6th (JD), Arcot Pond on 18th (PRM) and at Morpeth, Fulbeck on 31st (TD).

**Redshank** *Tringa totanus*

Good numbers occurred at Howdon late in the year: 234 on 27th and 251 on 29th (CB). Earlier in the month 213 were in R Tweed Estuary on 5th, the peak at St Mary's was 104 on 3rd (TRC) and about 100 were in Cullercoats Bay on 20th (MN). The Berwick area, Cresswell Pond and Hauxley NWT had 12-23 at times and single-figure reports came from Bothal Pond, East Chevington, Holywell Dene, Low Newton, Prestwick Carr, Stakeford Bridge and Whitley Bay.

**Jack Snipe** *Lymnocyptes minimus*

One at Backworth was observed on at least seven dates (CGK/GPK *et al.*) and one was at Arcot Pond on 22nd (STH).



**Woodcock** *Scolopax rusticola*

Five were noted at Longhorsley Moor on 16th (AB/LB) and two were in conifer woodland at Harbottle on 6th (DRo). One at Chare Ends beach on 2nd (ADM) is the only 'coastal' report, although one flew over the main shopping area of North Shields on 28th (CB), both records suggesting late immigration. Other singles were seen at Arcot Lane, Fontburn, Gosforth Park NR, Hartside, Howdon, Shaftoe Crags and Wallsend.



A Woodcock in Keith York's garden in Tynemouth

**Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*

Again the largest number was at Haughton Strother GP, 55 on 18th (MR). The peak at Arcot Pond was 30 on 26th and, also on 26th, 21 were seen at Arcot Lane flash; 26 were at the latter site on 7th (all DM). At St Mary's Wetland 19 were present on 3rd and four to eight were found at Cresswell Pond, Gosforth Park NR, Havannah NR, Howdon, Newbiggin and Wallsend.



Two Snipe at St. Mary's Wetland by Alan Jack



**Auk** *sp*

Very few were recorded at Seaton Sluice with a maximum of 16N in 7 hours on 2nd (SSWT) and a single moved N at Whitley Bay on 13th (IJ).

**Guillemot** *Uria aalge*

A single record only, of two at Bamburgh Stag Rocks on 2nd (BRS).

**Razorbill** *Alca torda*

One to five were seen at Bamburgh, Low Newton, Newbiggin and St Mary's Island on dates throughout the month (GB/TRD/JPD/MPF/AWS/IJ/BRS).

**Little Auk** *Alle alle*

From 2nd-13th, 12 flew N at Seaton Sluice with a maximum five on 8th (SSWT) and at St Mary's Island five moved N in five hours on 2nd (JPD/MPF/AWS); singles were recorded elsewhere at Low Newton, St Mary's Island, Tynemouth (SPP) and in Seahouses Harbour where a very tame but fit bird fed avidly close to the harbour wall on 28th (TRD).



A confiding Little Auk  
Seahouses Harbour  
28th December  
by Tim Dean

**Puffin** *Fratercula arctica*

At least nine were at Bamburgh Stag Rocks on 3rd (BRS) and other observers recorded one to three at this location from 16th-28th. Two were at Ross Back Sands late in the month and singles at Low Newton, Newbiggin (Spital), St Mary's Island and Tynemouth.

**Kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla*

Very scarce this month with only two seen on 7th at St Mary's Island (IJ).

**Black-headed Gull** *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

A significant roost holding 3,000 birds was noted on 8th off Tynemouth Longsands (CB), 1,026 were counted during a WeBS survey in the River Tweed Estuary on 5th (MHu) and three-figure counts of 100-350 were at many widespread localities, namely Blanchland, Bothal Pond, Budle Bay, Derwent Reservoir, Jesmond Dene, Kiln Pit Hill, Leazes Park, North Shields Fish Quay and the QEII CP Lake (JMA/MJCo/TD/CDH/DM). Smaller gatherings of up to 100 were at 12 other sites. Two colour-ringed birds marked at Stavanger (Norway) were at Killingworth Lake and North Shields, Chirton Dene (MSH) and a Lithuanian-ringed bird, first noted in winter 2009/2010, was at St Mary's Island for the fifth consecutive winter (MSH). A white colour-ringed bird 172 J was in Amble Town on 16th (TRC).

**Little Gull** *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

The last record of the year was of two moving N at St Mary's Island on 2nd (JPD/MPF/AWS).

**Mediterranean Gull** *Larus melanocephalus*

Surprisingly few in number with a maximum of only three at Newbiggin on 7th (DM) and singles elsewhere at Holywell Pond (STH/PJA), Monks' House Pool (GB/DM), Swallow Pond (JPD/MPF/AWS/SPP) and Tynemouth (SPP).

A first-winter Mediterranean Gull at Newbiggin  
by Chris Barlow

**Common Gull** *Larus canus*

The gull roost off Longsands, Tynemouth held 2,000 on 8th (CB) and the River Tweed Estuary WeBS survey on 5th recorded 864 on 5th (MHu). Lesser concentrations of 10-75 were seen at Arcot Pond, Berwick North Shore, Bolam Lake, Burntridg Moor, the Fontburn area, Howdon and QEII CP Lake with one to five at five other localities.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus graelsii*

Single wintering birds of various ages were at seven sites, namely the Black Middens, Branton GP, Cramlington, Haughton Strother GP, Longbenton, Swallow Pond and Whitley Bay (JD/JPD/MPF/AWS/IJ/DM/SPP/MR/KWY).

**Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus argenteus*

WeBS surveys on the River Tweed Estuary and Berwick North Shore on 5th and 3rd included 310 and 74 respectively (MHu) and flocks of 80-250 gathered at the Black Middens, Derwent Reservoir, Tynemouth King Edward's Bay and the Priory (all JMA) and Whitley Bay, Rockcliffe (IJ) with up to 50 at 12 widespread sites elsewhere.

Birds of the Northern race *argentatus* numbered ten at Swallow Pond on 5th (SPP) with five there on 27th (CGK). Elsewhere were 14, all adults, at Newburn on 5th (PRM), three adults at North Shields Fish Quay on 27th (CGK/SPP), two adults at East Chevington on 10th and a single adult at West Hartford on 18th (PRM).

**\*Yellow-legged Gull** *Larus michahellis*

Two immatures, 1st- and 2nd-winter birds were recorded briefly at Newburn on 18th (PRM), before flying off.

**Iceland Gull** *Larus glaucoideus*

Popular with observers in the North Shield Fish Quay/St Mary's Island/Tynemouth area were two immature birds, a 1st- and a 2nd-winter, recorded frequently from 27th-31st (CB/SPP/CGK/DRW/JBu). A 1st-winter bird was also recorded at the Black Middens on 2nd, (JPD/MPF/AWS).



An Iceland Gull  
28th December  
North Shields  
by Jonathan Farooqi

**Glaucous Gull** *Larus hyperboreus*

Two birds were recorded, a 1st-winter first seen at the Black Middens on 2nd (JPD/MPF/AWS) and a 2nd-winter seen the same day at the North Shields Fish Quay (MSH). 1st-winter birds were again on the Black Middens on 7th and 31st (DRW) with possibly a different 1st-winter being seen at Blyth Harbour also on 7th (DM/STH *et al.*). A 1st-winter was on the sea at Ross Back Sands on 28th (JL).



**Great Black-backed Gull** *Larus marinus*

The largest gathering of 203 was at Blyth South Harbour on 7th (DM) with 185 on the River Coquet at Amble on 14th (IRD). Smaller groups of 20-50 were counted at Castle Island (DM), East Chevington (IRD), the River Tweed Estuary (MHu) and Whitley Bay (IJ) with up to ten at ten other localities including four at an inland site, Grindon Lough (PRM). An adult bird at St Mary's Island on 1st carried a black leg-ring marked IP006 (TRC).

A first-winter Great Black Backed Gull  
with unusual wing flashes  
by Chris Barlow  
North Shields Fish Quay

**Rock Dove** *Columba livia*

80 were at Warkworth on 6th (PCF), 43 at Waren Mill on 27th and 23 at Southfield Green (Cramlington) on 23rd (DM). Also present at Jesmond Dene, Rockcliffe (Whitley Bay) and Killingworth Lake.

**Stock Dove** *Columba oenas*

High counts at Howdon of 40 on 14th & 26 on 6th (CB) with 20 in stubble at Big Waters on 25th (GB), five at Jesmond Dene on 15th (MJCo), four at Borough Woods (Morpeth) on 23rd and two at Holywell Dene on 31st.

**Woodpigeon** *Columba palumbus*

Peak counts of 200 in one field at Hartley West Farm on 18th and at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 28th (RJP/CDB), 150 at Amble on 6th (JMA), 33 at Eachwick on 14th, 30 at Coquet Estuary on 6th, 26 the peak monthly count at Howdon on 29th and one to 25 at seven other locations.

**Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*

A gathering at Horton Burn (Cramlington) numbered 25 on 23rd and 22 on 14th (LJM/DM) with 14 at Fenham-le-Moor Farm on 16th (MH/AA). Eight were at Dudley on 24th, seven at Alexandra Park (Cramlington) on 23rd (DM), three at Eachwick on 18th (CDB) and two displaying before sunrise in sub-zero temperatures at Chapel House on 29th (MH).

**Barn Owl** *Tyto alba*

One of three regular birds at Holy Island was found roosting in an old Woodpigeon nest (IK) with the only other sightings singles hunting along A189 (Longbenton) in daylight on 1st (ADM) and near A69 at Greenshaw Plain (Hexham) on 27th (IRD).



A Barn Owl eyes Alan Jack  
St. Mary's Wetland

**Little Owl** *Athene noctua*

Two remained at Shiremoor all month (CGK) with one at Derwent Reservoir on 29th (IFo).



**Tawny Owl** *Strix aluco*

Two males called at Wark (N.Tyne) on 4th (PRM) and a pair jousted at Prestwick Carr on 30th (PCF). One called at Rothbury most nights (TRD/JD) at Castlehills and East Ord (Berwick) at dusk on 1st (BWG) and at mid-day at Spindlestone on 16th (BRS). Singles were also at Tynely on 3rd, Wark on 16th, Valley Park (Cramlington) on 27th and Kirkhill (Morpeth) on 28th.

**Long-eared owl** *Asio otus*

At Wark (N.Tyne) a male called on 25th (PRM) and one was at Swallow Pond on 30th (JPD).

**Short-eared owl** *Asio flammeus*

Reported by non-birders at Prestwick Carr from 23<sup>rd</sup>, two were eventually seen hunting and heard arguing just after dark fell on 27th and 30th (PCF) with one seen at dusk on 29th (GB).

**Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*

All sightings were of singles regularly at Horton Burn (Cramlington), Gosforth Park NR and adjacent Pool, Jesmond Dene, and R.Blyth at Kirkley Hall (LJM/DM/NHSN/DHWP/MJCo/perK). Also at Howick Haven on 5th, Beehive Flash (Earsdon) on 6th, Haughton Strother GP on 8th, Rothbury on 13th, West Ord (Berwick) on 14th, Holywell Dene on 16th, Warkworth Gut on 23rd, Branton GP on 25th, Alnmouth on 26th, Blyth Harbour on 30th and Brierdene (Whitley Bay) on 31st.

**Green Woodpecker** *Picus viridis*

One called occasionally during the month at Craggside (Rothbury) (TRD/JD/MJC), at Holystone (Wallsend) on 4th (DRo) and at Newburn on 18th (PRM).

**Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major*

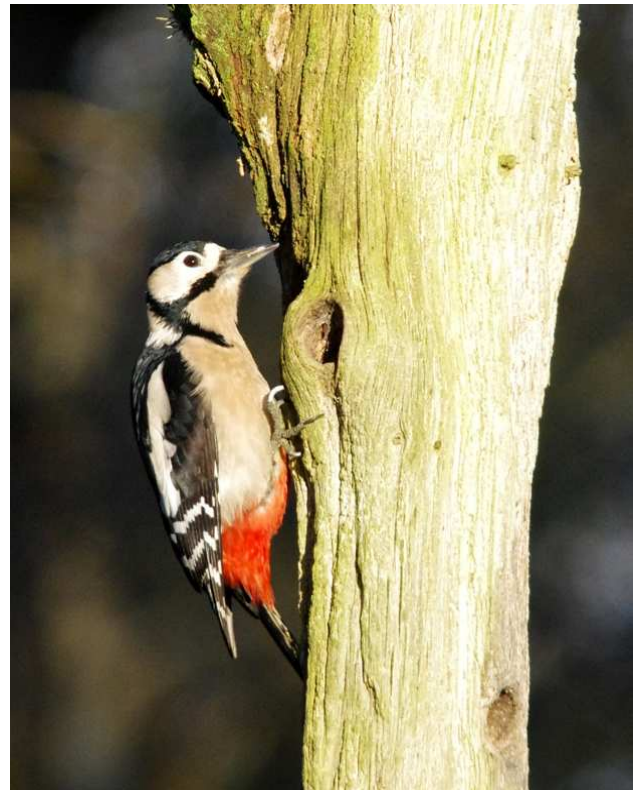
Seen regularly at Valley Park (Cramlington) with a peak of three on 25th (DM), two all month on peanut feeders at Rothbury (TRD/JD), in an Old Hartley garden (RJP) and at Prestwick Carr on 1st, Jesmond Dene on 2nd, Fallowlees (Harwood Forest) on 4th, Arcot Pond on 9th, Marden Quarry (Whitley Bay) on 14th, Spindlestone on 16th and Northumberland Park (North Shields) on 31st. Singles were ten other widespread localities.

**Lesser Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos minor*

On 13th at Corbridge one flew from a garden feeder (not the observer's) into woodland opposite (MR).

**Ring Necked Parakeet** *Psittacula krameri*

Christmas Eve saw four flying from Byker area to Heaton Park (TW) with a single at Brierdene (Whitley Bay) on 28th (JPD/AWS/MPF).



Two colourful hole-nesting species.

Top: a Great Spotted Woodpecker at Gosforth NR by Mike Carr

and left: a Ring-necked parakeet in Alan Jack's Whitley Bay Garden.

**Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*

Four birds consisting of three males and a female were at Grindon Lough on 1st (PRM) and four birds were also seen at Widdrington Moor Lake on 2nd (RD/IF). Three birds were at Gloucester Lodge Farm (Blyth) during the month and at Cresswell on 2nd (RD/IF), Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 5th (PRM), at Prestwick Carr on 5th and 7th (PRM/PCF) and at West Chevington on 20th (ASJ). One to two were also seen at 33 sites.

**Merlin** *Falco columbarius*

On 5th a male flew low up a pathway at Jesmond Dene (DHWB) and a male was also seen hunting Starlings *Sturnus vulgaris* on Holy Island on 5th and 8th (IK), also on the 5th a male was seen at Holywell Pond (JPD). Single birds were also seen at Cresswell Pond on 10th (PRM), Fenham Flats on 16th (AA/MH) and at Doddington on 29th (TRD/JD).

**Peregrine** *Falco peregrinus*

Two birds were seen at Widdrington Moor Lake in December (PHH) and a pair was at Doddington on 29th (TRD/JD). Single birds were seen at 15 sites including birds hunting Feral Pigeons *Columia livia* at Newcastle City Centre Quayside on 3rd (PRM) and a bird on the flats at Cruddas Park (Newcastle) on 17th (per PCF).

**Great Grey Shrike** *Lanius excubitor*

One found at West Hartford on 14th remained for the rest of the month being seen to kill a Bank Vole on 19th (PJA/DM/MH *et al.*).



A Great Grey Shrike

West Hartford on 20th December by Jonathan Farooqi

**Magpie** *Pica pica*

Large roost counts of 63 at Swallow Pond on 12th (JPD) and 60 at Marden Quarry (Whitley Bay) on 25th (MN), 22 at Valley Park (Cramlington) on 9th (DM), 17 at Howdon on 29th (CB), 16 over 1km at Horton Burn (Cramlington) on 23rd (LJM) and one to eight at six other locations.

**Jay** *Garrulus glandarius*

Six were at Gosforth Park NR during the month (NHSN), four at Derwent Reservoir on 31st (IFo) with two at Northumberland Park (North Shields) and Swallow Pond regularly, at Eshott on 6th, Craggside (Rothbury) on 21st, and Howdon on 27th. Singles were at eight other widespread localities.

A Jay at a feeder

Gosforth NR

Colin Bradshaw





**Jackdaw** *Corvus monedula*

Large gatherings of 200 at Kiln Pit Hill on 17th (JMA), 100 at St Colomba's Church (Wideopen) on 1st (DM), 40 at Sun Hotel with 25 at Hermitage (Warkworth) on 6th (JMA) and 26 the maximum monthly count at Howdon on 29th (CB). One to 14 were at Eachwick, Jesmond Dene, Killingworth Lake and Whitley Bay Cemetery.

**Rook** *Corvus frugilegus*

200 were at Acton Farm on 17th and Longhirst on 18th, Juniper on 17th and Chathill on 20th, 100 at Pegswood on 20th with 35 at Warkworth on 6th and Elwick on 16th (JMA). A leucistic bird was at Make me Rich (Blagdon) on 5th (SRB).

**Carrion Crow** *Corvus corone*

A pre-roost gathering of 137 on rocks at Tynemouth on 1st (CB), 45 nearby at North Shields Fish Quay on 11th (JMA), 12 at Low Newton on 30th (IJ), ten at Jesmond Dene on 21st (MJCo) and present at St Mary's Island / Whitley Bay Cemetery.

**Raven** *Corvus corax*

On a trip from Linhope to Harthope nine were found on 2nd (TRD/JD), two at Holystone (Wallsend) on 13th (DRo), over the observer's house at East Ord Berwick on 15th (MHu) and Dunstanburgh Castle on 28th (NFO). Singles were at Hawsen Burn on 2nd, Holy Island on 6th, Bewick on 15th, Haughton Strother GP on 22nd, Blakehopeburnhaugh on 27th, Bellingham and Corby Craggs (Alnwick) on 28th.

**Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus*

Around ten were at Grindon Lough on 1st and Bellingham on 28th (PRM), five at Holywell Dene on 5th (MNC), four at Prestwick Carr on 14th, three at North Seaton Colliery, North Shields and Newbiggin with one to two regularly at Valley Park (Cramlington) and fifteen other widespread localities.

**Firecrest** *Regulus ignicapillus*

One was seen with Long-tailed Tits at North Seaton Colliery on 19th (CDB).

**Blue Tit** *Cyanistes caeruleus*

Ringling stations caught and ringed 36 at Spindlestone on 16th and 17 at Eshott on 27th (BRS/MSH). Seven were at Eachwick on 13th (CDB), six at Whitley Bay Cemetery on 7th and Valley Park (Cramlington) on the same date, Holywell Dene and Holywell Pond on 22nd (IJ). Two to four were at Jesmond Dene, Low Newton, North Seaton Colliery and Whitley Bay.



A Blue Tit  
Gosforth NR  
Colin Bradshaw



**Great Tit** *Parus major*

At Eshott 29 were caught and ringed on 27th and 25 at Spindlestone on 16th (MSH/BRS). Eight were at Prestwick Carr on 27th (PCF), six at Whitley Bay Cemetery on 7th, Holywell Dene and Holywell Pond on 22nd (IJ) and Eachwick on 26th with two to four at Jesmond Dene, Low Newton and North Seaton Colliery.



A Great Tit in Gosforth NR on 28th December by Mike Carr

**Coal Tit** *Periparus ater*

Eight were trapped and ringed at Eshott on 27th (MSH), five were at Spindlestone on 2nd and QEII CP on 4th (RD/IF/JMA) with up to three in an Old Hartley garden during the month (RJP). Three were trapped and ringed at Spindlestone on 16th (BRS) with one to two at Eachwick, Jesmond Dene, Holywell Dene and Pond and Whitley Bay Cemetery.



A Coal Tit in Gosforth NR  
Colin Bradshaw

**Willow Tit** *Poecile montanus*

Three fed together in the feeding station at Big Waters on 25th (GB), two at Prestwick Carr on 15th (PCF) and Eshott on 27th (MSH). Singles were at Linden Hall (Longhorsley) regularly during the month (NFO), Holywell Dene on 1st, Big Waters on 14th & 31st and Castle Island (R.Wansbeck) on 30th.

**Marsh Tit** *Poecile palustris*

Favoured locations for this species saw only two at Linden Hall (Longhorsley) on 28th (NFO) and Scotch Gill Woods on 31st (TD). One fed occasionally on sunflower seed at Rothbury during the month (TRD/JD) was at Spindlestone on 2nd & 3rd, Linden Hall on 6th and 14th, Fontburn on 13th, Morpeth on 23rd and Mitford Castle on the same date.

**Skylark** *Alauda arvensis*

Christmas Day saw 23 at Beaconhill (Cramlington) (STH), 12 were in fields near Holywell Dene on 31st (GB) with two at Fenham-le-Moor on 27th (GB/DM) and singles at Cramlington, Forestburn Gate, Newbiggin and West Chevington.

**Long-tailed Tit** *Aegithalos caudatus*

18 at Earsdon Cemetery on 28th was the largest 'tribe' (MNC). A flock of 14 was reported from Haredean (Longhorsley) on 4th (AB/LB) and 11-12 were noted at Hawsen Burn, Kiln Pit Hill, North Seaton Colliery (Ashington), Prestwick Carr and Wallsend (Holystone). Groups of ten were found at Arcot Pond, Holywell Pond and QEII CP and nine at Horton Burn (Cramlington). Six to seven were at Longhorsley Moor, Morpeth (Fulbeck) and Jesmond Dene and two to four at Cramlington (Southfield Green), Leazes Park and Wark (North Tyne).

**Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita*

Seven individuals were noted during the month, at Bamburgh on 3rd (BRS), Blyth Riverside Ind. Est. on 29th (LJM), Holywell Dene on 15th (GPK), Howdon (CB), Longbenton on 12th (ADM), Marden Quarry on 28th (KWY) and North Seaton Colliery (Ashington) on 19th (CDB).

**Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*

Five birds were reported this month. A male was in a Morpeth garden throughout the month (TF/JFa); further males were in two different Whitley Bay gardens during the month (AJ) and at Howick Haven on 5th (MJC). A female was in the observer's garden at Marden (Whitley Bay) on 18th (AJ).

A Blackcap feeds in a Morpeth garden  
by Jonathan Farooqi  
20th December

**Waxwing** *Bombycilla garrulus*

Four were found at Willington Quay (Wallsend) on 24th (ADM).

**Nuthatch** *Sitta europaea*

Counts of four came from Gosforth Park NR and Jesmond Dene (NHSN/MJCo) while three+ were noted at Spindlestone (BRS) and up to three at Holywell Dene (RJP). Two were at Arcot Pond and also at Wylam and singles at Cramlington (Valley Park), Eshott and Wark (North Tyne).



A Nuthatch

Gosforth NR

Colin Bradshaw



**Treecreeper** *Certhia familiaris*

Three at Swallow Pond was the highest count (JPD). Two were at Gosforth Park NR and at Prestwick Carr and singles at Arcot Pond, Castle Island, Hareshaw Linn (Bellingham), Holywell Dene, Jesmond Dene, North Seaton Colliery (Ashington), Wark (North Tyne) and Whittle Dene Reservoirs.

**Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes*

18 were counted over a 1km stretch at Prestwick Carr on 6th (PCF) and ten were at Low Newton on 30th (IJ). Three were roosting in an old Swallow's nest on Holy Island and one to two were reported from a further eight localities.

Two photographs by Colin Bradshaw

right: a Treecreeper at Gosforth NR and below:

a Wren in a Tynemouth garden

**Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*

The Holy Island Lough roost declined from 40,000 on 1st to 11,000 on 5th and still further to 6,000 by Xmas (IK). Elsewhere, 700 gathered in a heavily grazed sheep pasture at Longhorsley on 10th (AB/LB), 250 were at Christon Bank on 20th and 200 at Amble on 6th and Cresswell / Cresswell Pond on 18th(JMA); 112 were at Cramlington (Southfield Green) on 21st, 80 at Muckley (Longhorsley) on 4th and 15-40 at a further three localities.



**Dipper** *Cinclus cinclus*

Up to two were noted in Holywell Dene during the month (RJP). Two were at Jesmond Dene (Waterfall) on 4th (MJCo) and a single was here on three other dates (DHWB); two were also at Throckley Dene on 26th (SR) and a singing male at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 5th (PRM). Further singles were reported from Bywell, Fulbeck (Morpeth), Ovingham and Scotch Gill Woods (Morpeth).

**Blackbird** *Turdus merula*

A total of 45 were found over 2km at Cramlington (Horton Burn) on 23rd (LJM) and 18 over 1km at Prestwick Carr on 14th (PCF). A loose flock of 16 'sooty black' birds, thought to be of continental origin were in a hedgerow at Haughton Strother GP (Humshaugh) on 22nd (MR) and 15 were feeding on lawns at Longhorsley Common on 10th (AB/LB); ten to 12 were also at Howdon and Pegswood, six at Eachwick and one to four at a further eight localities.

**Fieldfare** *Turdus pilaris*

Around 400 at Forestburn Gate on 28th was the largest gathering (CDB), followed by two flocks totalling 240 at West Ord on 7th (MHu) and 200 at Longhorsley on 28th (AB/LB). Flocks of 150 were at Prestwick Carr on 6th and 27th (PCF), 130 at Longridge Towers on 28th and 100+ at Belford Moor on 27th. Elsewhere 60-80 were noted at Eachwick, Pegswood Community Park and Rosebrough, 40-50 were at Grindon Lough, Muckley (Longhorsley) and Wark (North Tyne) and one to 31 at a further 13 inland localities.

Of particular interest was a partially leucistic bird at Pegswood Community Park on 26th, with it (or another) at Prestwick Carr on the following day (AT/PCF). No details were given of the Pegswood bird, but the Prestwick individual had a completely white head.

**Song Thrush** *Turdus philomelos*

Four were noted at Jesmond Dene on 31st and Prestwick Carr on 26th (MJCo/PCF) and three were at Low Newton on 30th (IJ). Two were reported from Fenham-le-Moor on 27th and Gosforth Park NR on 29th and singles from Eachwick, Holywell Dene, Howdon, Leazes Park, Lucker, Rosebrough and Wylam, the latter bird in full song on 1st.

**Redwing** *Turdus iliacus*

An estimated 300 at Sharperton on 4th was the largest gathering (JD), followed by 100 at Forestburn Gate on 28th (CDB). There were further estimates of 80 at West Ord on 7th and 60+ at West Hartford on 14th, with 46-48 at East Ord and Wallsend (Holystone) on 24th-25th. There were 20+ at Cramlington (Horton Burn) on 14th, 16 at Jesmond Dene on 7th and counts of ten came from Cramlington (Whitelea), Hareshaw Linn (Bellingham) and Wark (North Tyne). One to five were reported from a further 12 localities.

**Mistle Thrush** *Turdus viscivorus*

Seven in Jesmond Dene on 2nd was the highest count (MJCo). Three were noted at Newcastle Civic Centre on 2nd and two were reported from Belford Moor, Cramlington (Whitelea), Elwick, Grindon Lough and Newbiggin. Singles were also noted Blanchland, Derwent Reservoir, Eachwick, Killingworth Lake, Leazes Park, Mitford Castle, Morpeth, Wark (North Tyne) and Wylam, the latter bird in full song on 1st.

**Robin** *Erithacus rubecula*

16 were counted over 2km at Cramlington (Horton Burn) on 23rd (LJM), five were trapped and ringed at Spindleston on 16th (BRS) and four were noted at Eachwick on 26th and Low Newton on 30th. One to two were reported from a further eight localities.

A Robin has a rest on  
Alan Jack's garden fork.  
Whitley Bay

**Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Four were still at Newbiggin on 1st (three at Church Point and one near Sandy Bay), the latter still present at month end (GB) and one still at Church Point on 7th (DM). More unusual was a female / immature in the grounds of the Great North Museum (Newcastle City Centre) on 12th (MPotts).

**Stonechat** *Saxicola rubicola*

Peak counts were as follows;

Site	Peak count	Observer	Site	Peak count	Observer
<b>Coastal:</b>			<b>Inland:</b>		
Cocklawburn	3	MHu	Quarry House Moor (Berwick)	4	MH
Bamburgh	2	BRS	Broadstrother (Cheviots)	2 (a pair)	TRD/JD
Cresswell Pond	2	IRD	Harwood Forest	2 (a pair)	JL
Druridge Pools	1 (female)	PRM	Prestwick Carr	2 (a pair)	PCF
Holy Island (Chare Ends beach)	1	ADM	Thirlwall Common	1 (male)	MH
Holy Island (Sandham Bay)	1 (male)	IK	West Hartford	2	LJM
St Mary's Island	1 (male)	IJ			
Tynemouth	1 (female)	DRW			
Wansbeck Estuary	1	GB			
Warkworth Gut	2 (a pair)	MH/AA			



A Stonechat at Denwick  
7th December  
Mike Carr

**Dunnoek** *Prunella modularis*

Four were noted at Low Newton on 30th (IJ). Three were at Eachwick on 26th (CDB). Two were seen at an Old Hartley garden, in Jesmond Dene and at Holywell Pond and a single present all month at Rockcliffe, Whitley Bay.

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*

A gathering of 100 was again at Cullercoats Bay this month on 22nd, with 30 there on 26th (MN/IJ). 70 were noted at Jubilee Lodge (Cramlington) on 26<sup>th</sup> (DM). Groups of 40 and 45 observed at garden feeders at Beaconhill (Cramlington) and at Corbridge and 38 at Horton Burn (Cramlington), 25 at Gloster Park (Amble) and Whitley Bay Links and 22 at Bolam West Houses and 20 at Holy Island (at farm) and Southfield Green (Cramlington) (JMA/DM). 16 were noted at Eachwick and ten at Rockcliffe (Whitley Bay) during the month.

**Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus*

The largest gathering noted this month was of 40 at Birling Links (Warkworth) on 5th (MJC). Feeders at Cresswell Pond attracted 20 birds on 10th and 13th (PRM/ASJ). 12 were near the *Beehive* Flash on 6th (CGK/GPK) and tens/ten + were at Eshott, an Eachwick garden and Longhorsely. Gardens at Corbridge, Marden Estate and Tynemouth also attracted five, six and four birds respectively. Five + were at Spindlestone on 3rd and four at Holywell Pond during the month. One to five were at five further sites.

**Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*

Four were counted in Jesmond Dene on 15th (MJCo). Two were seen at Holywell Dene, Backworth and Cramlington. Single birds noted at a further 19 sites, including three in Newcastle City Centre.



A Grey Wagtail at Eachwick by Chris Barlow

**Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla alba*

Nine at a farmhouse at Thirlwall Common were thought to be very unusual here in mid-winter on 20th(MH). Five were at Prestwick Carr on 29th(PCF). One to three were at ten further, mainly south-east sites.

**Meadow Pipit** *Anthus pratensis*

A feature of the relatively mild winter, was the continued presence in the County of numbers of birds. 18 fed in the rough grassland of West Hartford on 20th (ASJ) with 12 still there on 28th (CGK/GPK). 15 were also at Prestwick Carr on 29th (PCF), five at East Chevington and three at Cresswell Pond and St. Mary's (ASJ). One to two noted at six other sites, including, unusually, Howdon on Tyneside and inland at Belford Moor.(CB/DM/LAR/GB/AB).

**Rock Pipit** *Anthus Petrosus*

The highest numbers were counted at two sites on 14th. Sandham Bay (Holy Island) held 12 and 11 were at St. Mary's, Whitley Bay (IK/ASJ). Five were also at Holy Island on 5th (ADM). Seven were noted at Boulmer on 8th (TRD/JD). Four were at Fenham le Moor on 27th(DM/LAR/GB/AB). On 30th, two were feeding on a muddy field entrance at Cocklawburn (MHu). Single birds were seen at eight further coastal sites during the month.

A Rock Pipit

St. Mary's

Alan Jack

**Brambling** *Fringilla montifringilla*

11+ at Grindon on 1st, had increased to 22 by 15th (PRM). Very few were reported elsewhere, two were at Rothbury on several dates in the month and singles at three other sites.

**Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs*

A feeding flock of 60 were at Bewick/Quarry House on 31st (MH). Around 30 were at Spindleston on 3rd and at Longhorsley the following day (BRS/AB/LB). 27 noted at Q.E 11 Lake on 23rd (GB). 26 still at Spindleston on 16th, 12 at Birling links (Warkworth) and at Howdon and ten at Heaton Park Bowling Green, all in first week of the month. One to seven at four other sites.





**Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

A maximum of eight were attracted in to an Old Hartley garden during the month and eight at QE11 C.P. on 23rd. Eight+ were noted at Swallow Pond on 14th (RJP/STH/IFo/SPP). Seven were at Big Waters on 23rd (IJ). Six were at Linden Hall and five at Pegswood and Holystone (North Tyneside) during the month. One to four noted at a further 20 sites throughout the month and one to six at three Cramlington sites(DM).

**Greenfinch** *Carduelis chloris*

Very few were reported this month with one to four at five sites only.

**Linnet** *Carduelis cannabina*

In stubble at Mill Farm (Tweedmouth), 65 fed on 20th (BWG). 35 were near Earsdon on 6th (CGK/GPK) and 20 at Fenham le Moor (DM/LAR/GB/AB). 12 were feeding behind the Newbiggin Lifeboat Museum on 30th (GB). Singles were at two further sites.

**Twite** *Carduelis flavirostris*

The large flock of 130 birds remained at Beal Point/shore throughout the month (*per* IK). 60 were present at Fenham le Moor on 27th (DM/LAR/GB/AB). Around 40 were seen at Druridge Bay on 16th (TRC).The only other reports were of five at Berwick Little Beach on 11th (MHu) and of a single at Cresswell on 26th (IJ).

**Redpoll sp.**

Two singles flew over Borough Woods (Morpeth) on 23rd (GB).

**Lesser Redpoll** *Carduelis caberet*

A good sized flock of around 80 birds was at Longhorsley on 4th (AB/LB) and 49+ were at Grindon on 1st (PRM). 30 were noted feeding at Derwent Reservoir on 1st (IFo).18 spent the month in Gosforth Park and 12 were at Fallowlees, Harwood and at Big Waters during the month. One to five at seven further sites.



A Lesser Redpoll  
Gosforth NR  
by Mike Carr on 12th December

**Common (Mealy)Redpoll** *Carduelis flammea*

A single found in trees at the pit-heap, Swallow Pond on 5th (SPP).

**Crossbill** *Loxia curvirostris*

In Harwood Forest, 11 noted at Fallowlees and four at Redpath on 4th (MSH/JCD). One was at Harbottle on 4th, two at Craggside on 21st and on 27th, three birds at Blakehopeburnhaugh (JD).

**Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*

Around 130 were frequenting the River Coquet course at Warkworth on 31st (NFO) and 120 were in trees at Widdrington Moor on 13th (ASJ). Flocks of 67 at Howdon on 29th, 65 at Holywell Pond on 2nd (ASJ) and 60 at Haughton Strother on 8th (MR). 50 at Cresswell on 18th (JMA), around 40 were at Longhorsley on 4th (AB/LB) and a maximum of 37 at East Ord,Berwick on 24th (MHu). A regular roost at the Village Hotel (North Shields) was thought to be well down on previous years, with 25 birds noted. 25 were also at East Cramlington LNR on 13th (STH). 22 were seen at Newburn on 5th (PRM). 17 were noted at Chapel Lands (Alnwick) on 19th and 15 were at Belford Moor on 27th. Elsewhere,one to 19 were at a further eight sites during the month including eight birds at All Saints Church (Newcastle City Centre) (DM).

**Siskin** *Carduelis spinus*

The month's largest flock by far was found at Blakehopeburnhaugh on 27th of around 200 birds (JD). 120 frequented Gosforth Park during the month (NHSN). Flocks of 70 were at Nelly's Moss (Cragside) on 6th and Haughton Strother on 22nd (MJC/MR). Elsewhere, 25 noted at QE11 C.P. on 4th and 20 were at Derwent Reservoir, 15 at Plessey Woods and four at Grindon this month.

**Snow Bunting** *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Few reported this month, with the largest group seen at Guile Point (Ross Back Sands), with 13 birds on 28th (JL). Nine halted briefly at Sandy Bay (Newbiggin) on 1st, before flying S (GB). 3 were seen on Holy Island on 7th (IK), two flew N at Seaton Sluice on 28th and singles were noted at Berwick Little Beach on 1st and Dunstanburgh Castle on 28th.

**Lapland Bunting** *Calcarius Lapponicus*

Four seen at the Straight Lonnen (Holy Island) on 7th was the sole record of the month (IK).

**Yellowhammer** *Emberiza citronella*

31 remained from last month near Holywell Pond on 2nd (ASJ) and two flocks of 24 and nine were at Ovingham on 26th (CDB). Around 20 were at Longhorsley on 4th (AB/LB). On 28th, 13 were attracted to feeders at a Corbridge garden (MR). Seven were at Druridge Lane on 3rd, six at Fenham le Moor on 27th, Weetslade and Big Waters on Christmas Day. Five birds at Birling links (Warkworth), four noted at Whitelea Horse Paddocks (Cramlington), Fenham Flats and Prestwick Carr throughout the month. Two were at Whittle Dene on 5th and a single bird at Belford Moor on 27th.

**Reed Bunting** *Emberiza Schoeniclus*

On 2nd six were noted at Holywell Pond and four at St. Mary's on 8th (ASJ). At Longhorsley Moor five seen on 26th (AB/LB). Four on Belford Moor on 27th (DM/LAR/GB/AB). Three were at garden feeders at Dinnington on 25th (PCF). One to two at a further eight sites within the County.

**ESCAPES, HYBRIDS AND BIRDS OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN****Escapes****Harris's Hawk** *Parabuteo unicinctus*

The individual seen last month at Swallow Pond was seen again there from 12th to 29th (JPD / AS/ MPF / SPP).

**Hybrids****Aythya hybrid** *Aythya sp*

A hybrid at Killingworth lake on 29th could not be tied down to any two species but was superficially Scaup like (GB).

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**Apologies for any accidental omissions****BULLETIN COMPILATION AND PRODUCTION**

This bulletin was compiled by Graeme Bowman (Mute Swan to Ruddy Duck), Lindsay McDougall (Red Grouse to Black-necked Grebe), Trevor Blake (Honey-buzzard to Crane), Steve Holliday (Avocet to Godwit) Ian Forsyth (Turnstone to Skua), Eddie Crabtree (Puffin to Great Black-backed Gull), Tim Dean (Escapes, Hybrids and Unknown Origin, List of Contributors, Highlights), Peter Fletcher (Feral Pigeon to Red-rumped Swallow), Mike Richardson (Cetti's Warbler to Pied Flycatcher), Alan Jack (Dunnock to Corn Bunting), Dan Turner (WeBS Coastal Counts) and Steve Holliday (WeBS Inland Counts).

Thanks to David Sanders of NNBC for providing data.

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**RECORD SUBMISSION**

Please email [ntbcorg@gmail.com](mailto:ntbcorg@gmail.com) for a copy of the standard spreadsheet and other details.

Location names and grid references: The use of standard location names and the include grid references as this greatly increases the value of records in subsequent analyses. A 1km square grid reference is the ideal e.g. NY8067 for Grindon Lough, but 2km square references (tetrads) are also acceptable e.g. NY86D in this case. A list of localities and their tetrad grid references (tetrad/Locality List) can be downloaded from the 'Resources & Downloads' section of the Club website at <http://www.ntbc.org.uk> – the use of these names, wherever possible, would be highly appreciated.

Could club members ensure they to submit records direct to NTBC rather than just Birdtrack. There may be an assumption by some members this happens automatically. We do not want to miss records.

### **PHOTOGRAPHS AND ILLUSTRATIONS**

Please keep submitting your articles, photographs, sketches and illustrations for the bulletin. Thanks again to those who have supplied the excellent photographs. Please send to Steve Barrett at [NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com](mailto:NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com)

It is preferable if you re-size your photos before sending and a suggested size is 640 x 480 pixels. Please ensure you include the following information with your submissions: name, species, date taken, locality. Photographs will not be used elsewhere without the photographer's permission.

### **MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Annual membership costs £10 for a junior, £30 for an individual, and £32 for a family. For membership enquiries please contact [ntbc@jobentley.plus.com](mailto:ntbc@jobentley.plus.com)

Subscriptions were due from 1st October. Members are asked to check that standing orders have been paid.

### **NTBC WEB SITE**

<http://www.ntbc.org.uk>

The Club website is an excellent resource for all interested in birds in the north-east.

There are numerous interesting sections, including a photograph gallery, site information and trip reports together with extensive reference information for birding in our area. Please submit any new content for the website to the main club email address.

### **NTBC SIGHTINGS PAGE**

The Sightings Page contains current reports by members. Access is from the NTBC website and an email notification is available for new postings.

Members need to submit a request to be added to the website, specifying the email address they wish to post from before they can submit sightings to [ntbcorg@gmail.com](mailto:ntbcorg@gmail.com)

### **SEATON SLUICE WATCH TOWER**

Repairs have recently been made to the SSWT and a new lock has been fitted. This means that new keys are required for access. Keys can be collected at indoor meetings or email [ntbcorg@gmail.com](mailto:ntbcorg@gmail.com)

Keys are available for £5 for new holders and existing key-holders can exchange keys for £4.

### **ST. MARY'S WETLAND CONSERVATION GROUP is looking for members**

St Mary's Island Wetland Conservation Group was formally constituted in September 2014 and aims to improve the conservation value of St Mary's Island Wetland. The group has agreed to manage the area in conjunction with North Tyneside Council and has agreed an initial management plan and set out a number of longer-term objectives. We are looking for people to help with this.

St Mary's Island Wetland was created in 1997 but has recently suffered from a lack of management and the condition of the site has deteriorated. Current issues include: the development of rank grass and scrub in the meadow; inadequate control of input and exit of water onto the site; shrub thickets becoming so overgrown & dense that there is die-back of vegetation in the centre; and the presence of invasive non-native species including Japanese rose and New Zealand pygmy weed.

We are keen for more people who love St Mary's Island or who have a wider environmental interest to join the group. There is no membership fee and no requirement to get involved although we would particularly welcome members willing to help with practical conservation work on site or who have particular skills in fund-raising or ecological survey.

If you are interested please contact Joanne Darke;

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## INLAND WeBS COUNTS: NORTHUMBERLAND

Year: 2014
Month: December

Version:

Version:

## Interim

[illegible]